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MYSTERIOUS
ISLAND
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MYSTERIOUS ISLAND

ADAPTED FROM THE CLASSIC NOVEL BY JULES VERNE

52 FULL
PGS.
NO ADS





Jules Verne

Stan Lee
PRESENTS:

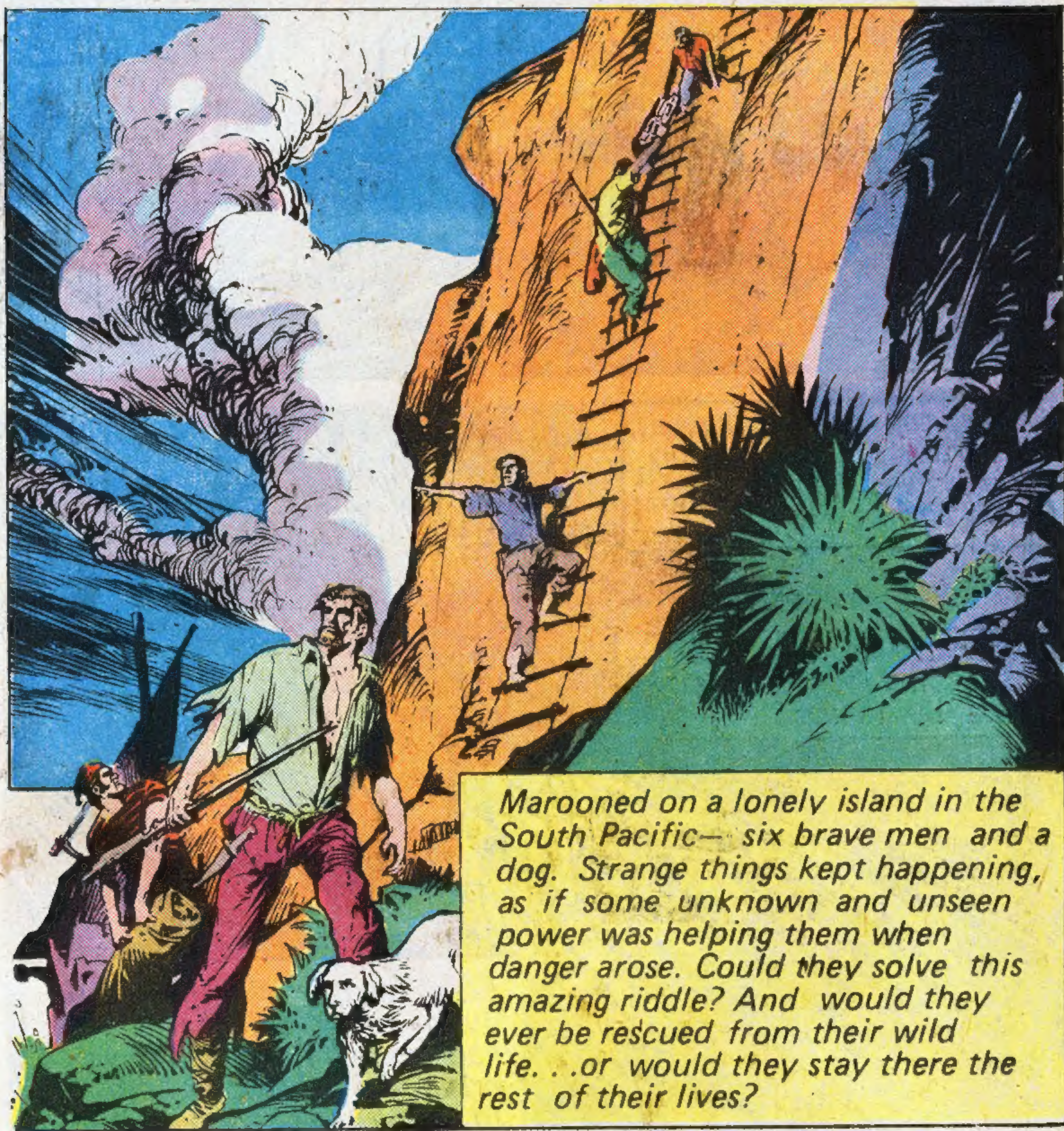
Jules Verne

Mysterious Island

Adapted by
OTTO BINDER

a **VINCENT FAGO**
production

Illustrated by
E.R. CRUZ



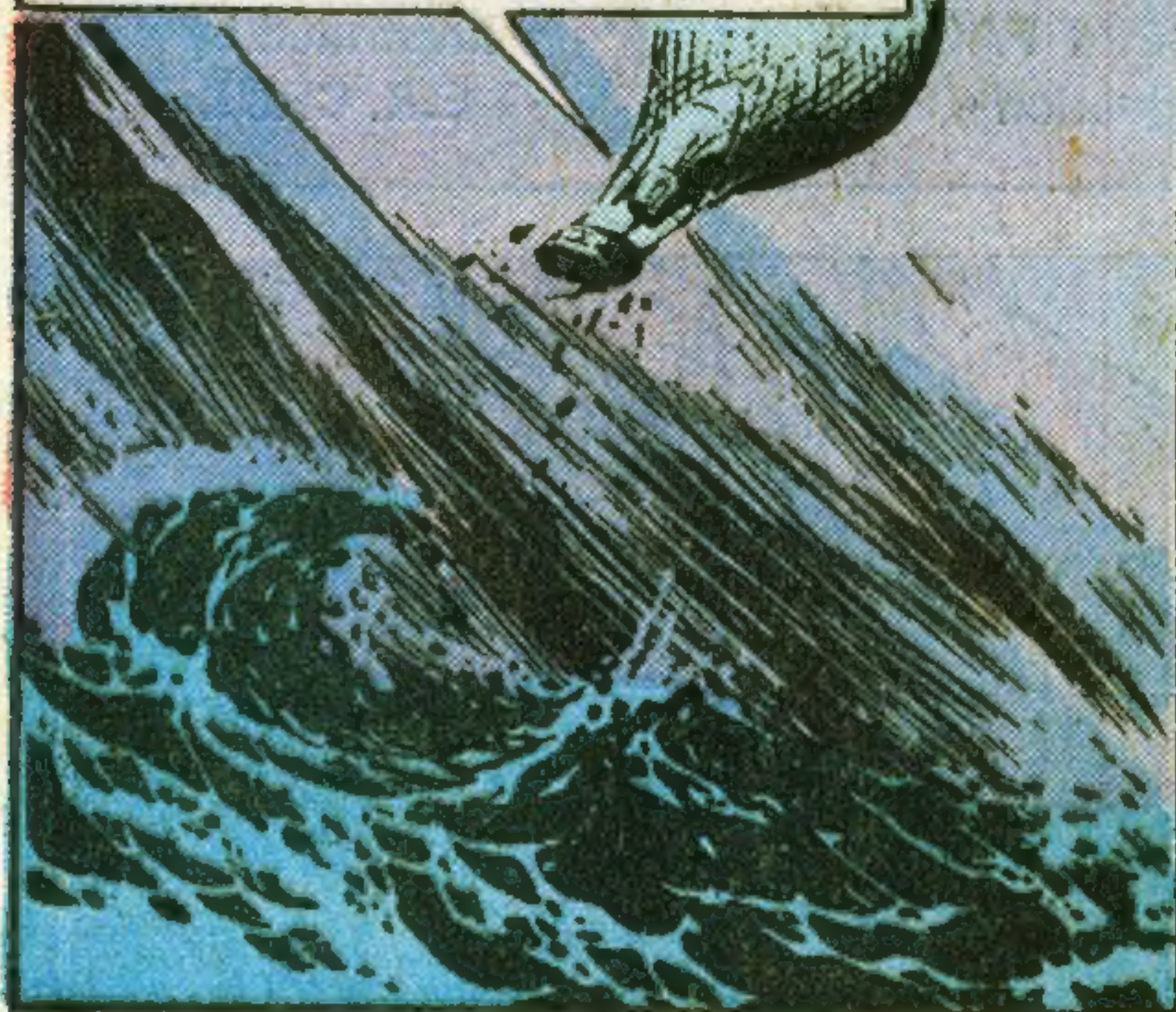
Marooned on a lonely island in the South Pacific— six brave men and a dog. Strange things kept happening, as if some unknown and unseen power was helping them when danger arose. Could they solve this amazing riddle? And would they ever be rescued from their wild life...or would they stay there the rest of their lives?

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On March 23, 1865, during a terrible storm in the Pacific Ocean, a balloon was in danger of falling into the stormy sea.

Finally, still sinking...

**We're going down! Quick!
Toss out everything loose!**



**Cut the car loose! It's
our only hope to make
the balloon rise!**

**There
it goes!**



**The gas-bag suddenly ripped,
but fortunately the balloon
fell near land. That was on
March 25th.**

**We can swim to shore.
But somebody was washed
away! Who was it?**



**These men, loyal to the North
during the American Civil War,
had escaped from a Southern
prison camp five days before
in a captured balloon which
had been driven 7000 miles
by the storm.**

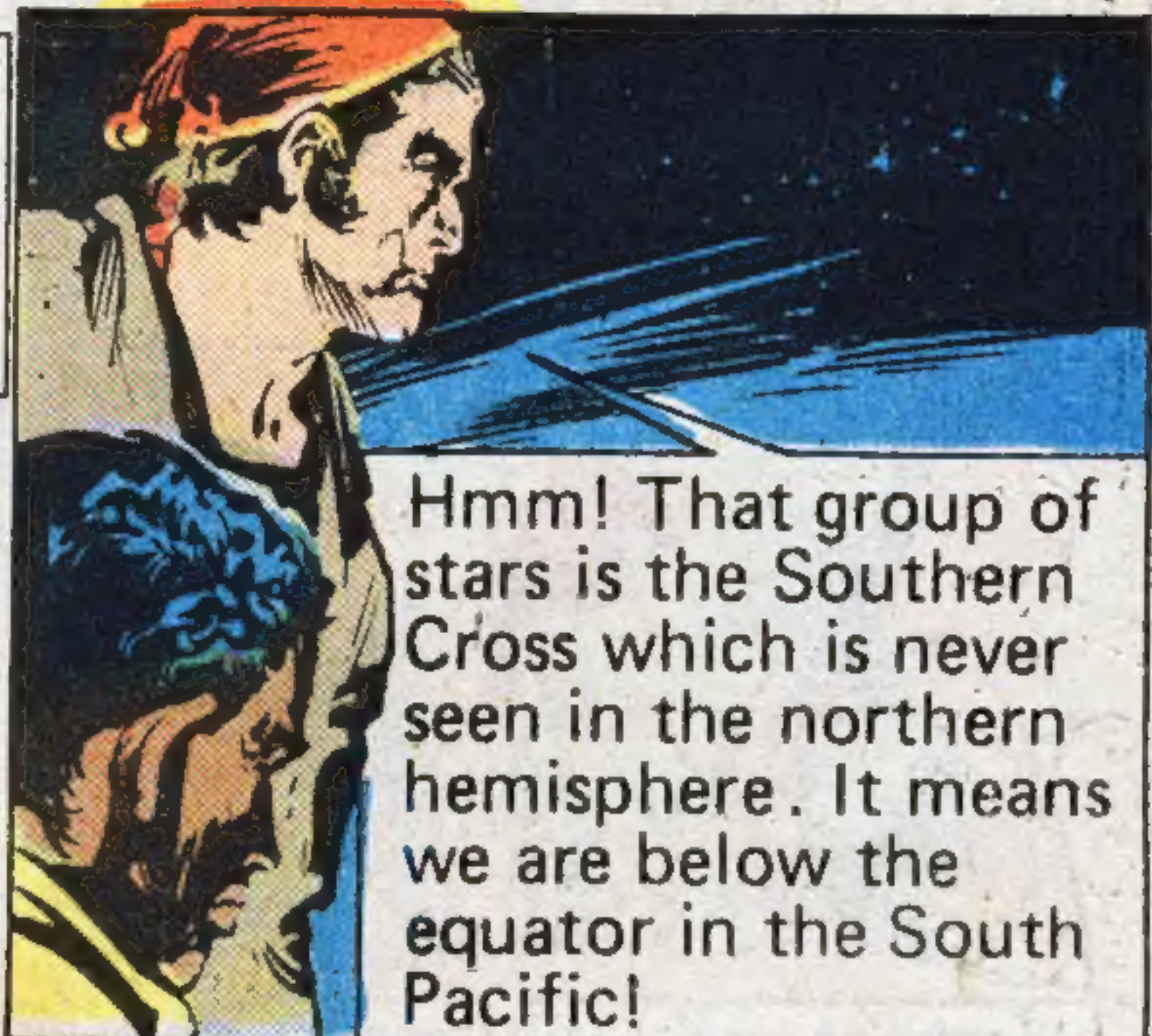
Soon after, on shore. . . .

Captain Harding is missing! And his dog.

Harding was our leader! We depended on him to help us out of all troubles!



As night fell. . . .



Hmm! That group of stars is the Southern Cross which is never seen in the northern hemisphere. It means we are below the equator in the South Pacific!

Meanwhile, Neb had swum across a strip of water to a larger island nearby.

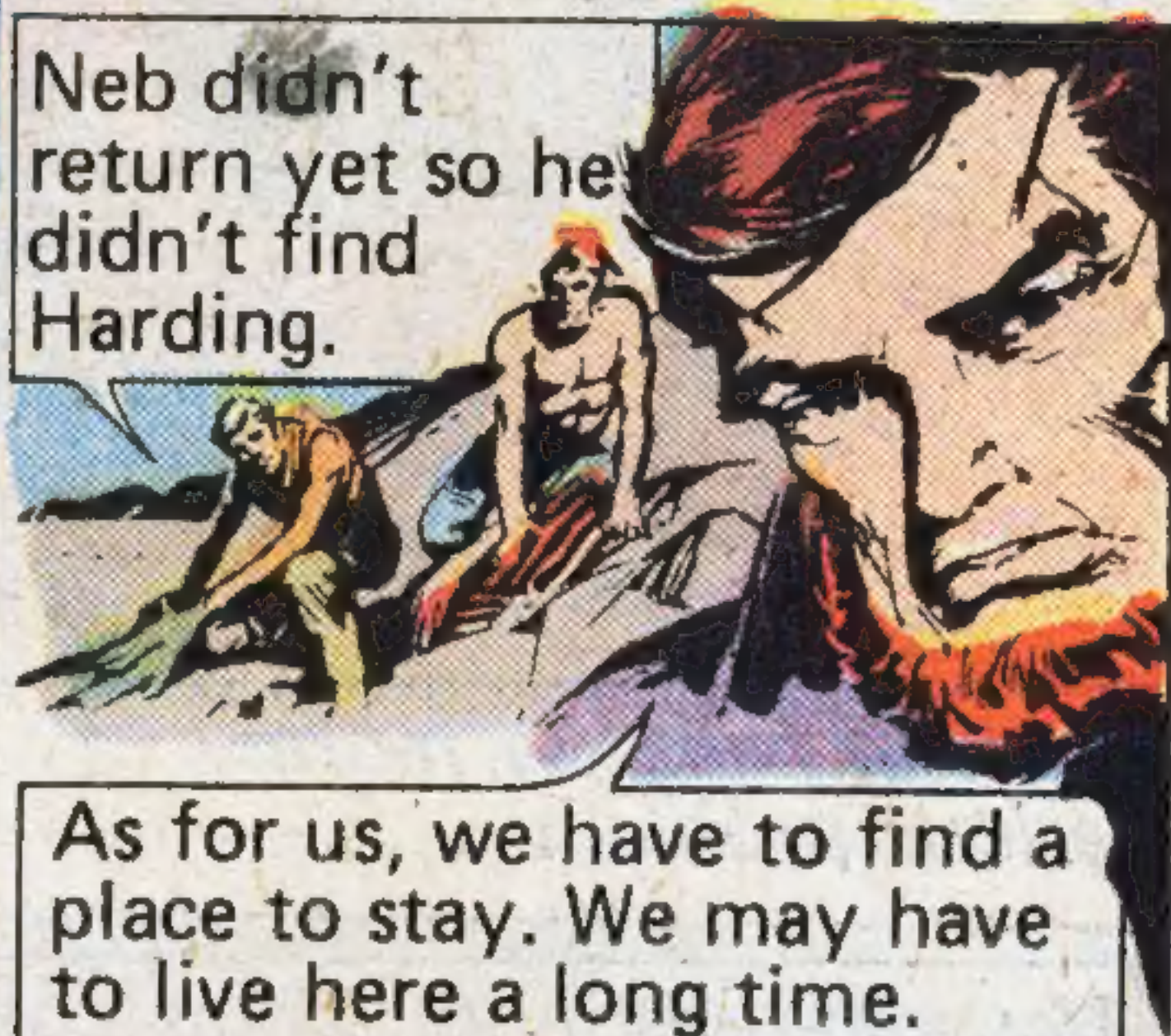
We looked, but Captain Harding was nowhere to be seen out in the water.



My master may have been cast up on this beach. I'll search.

The next morning, after the other three survivors crossed over to the large island. . . .

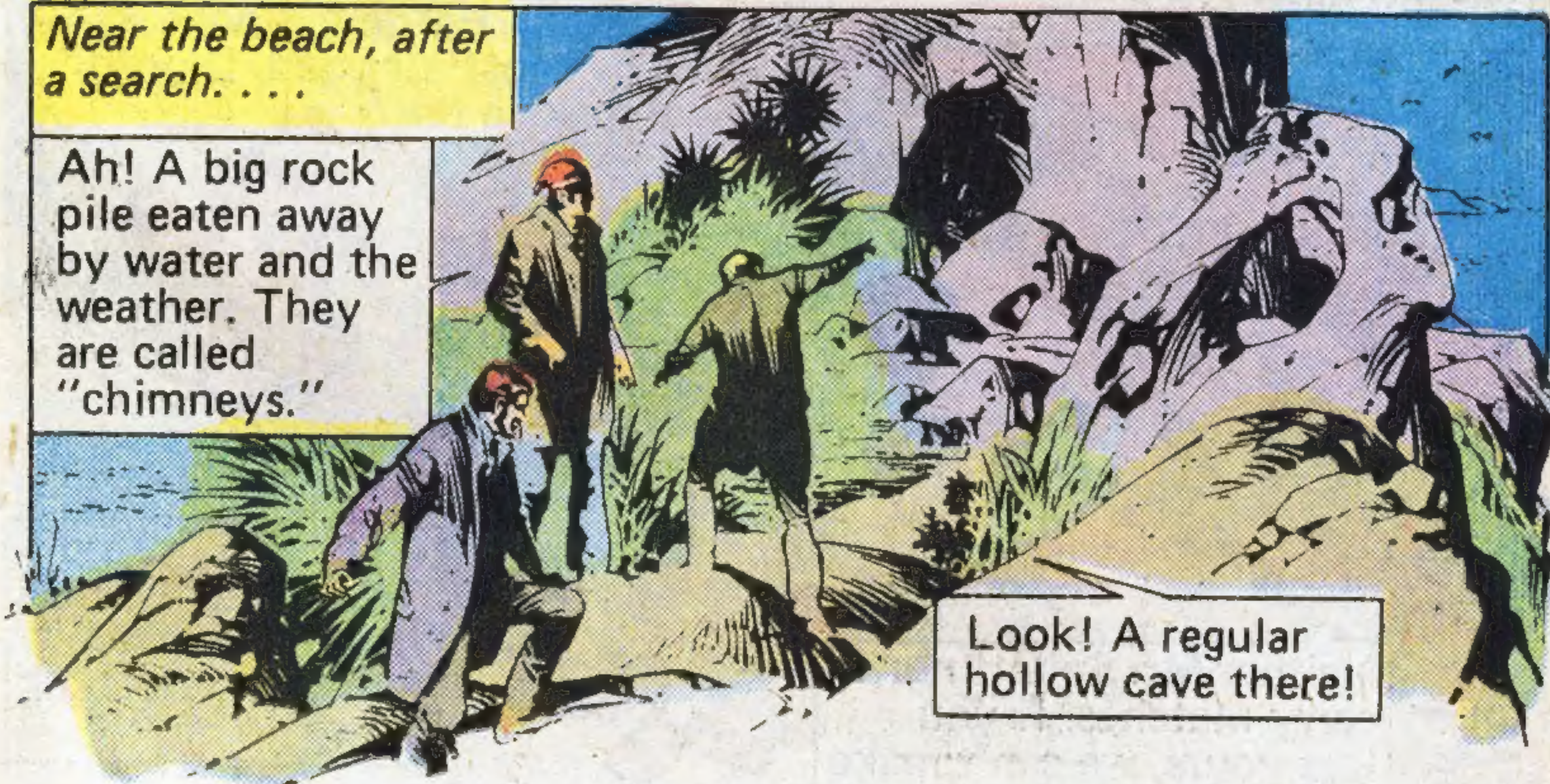
Neb didn't return yet so he didn't find Harding.



As for us, we have to find a place to stay. We may have to live here a long time.

Near the beach, after a search. . . .

Ah! A big rock pile eaten away by water and the weather. They are called "chimneys."



Look! A regular hollow cave there!

Later. . . .

I'll go follow Neb now. Maybe there's still a chance to find Captain Harding . . . dead or alive.

Then, after the sailor and his young friend followed the nearby river upstream. . . .

Herbert and I will search for firewood.

You made a good raft, Mr. Pencroft.

Easy as pie for a sailor, lad. We'll float a big load of firewood back to our camp.

Back at camp, a more serious problem. . . .

My waterproof box of matches for my pipe. . . it's gone!

Toward sundown, the reporter returned with a welcome friend. . . .

I found Neb, but he saw no sign of Captain Harding. Looks like he's lost for good. Didn't you make a fire?

Neither Mr. Spilett nor I carry matches. If you lost yours, we can't make a fire.

I still can't find my matchbox. . . Wait! One match somehow got stuck in my lining.

*Pencroft was too nervous
so Herbert struck the
last match.*

Our only match!
If I fail. . . .

You did it, my boy! We're
saved from raw food and
cold nights, thank heaven.

*Soon, the hungry survivors had
their first cooked meal.*

Pencroft, I'm glad you and
Herbert brought back these
seabird eggs as well as
firewood.

I'll bury hot coals
in ashes through
the night for the
morning fire.

*Next morning, after
breakfast. . . .*

We need better food.
Herbert and I will go
hunting. With sticks,
we should be able
to knock down game
birds.

I'll stay and make notes on our
doings. For one thing, poor
Neb left again during the night,
to search for his master.

*When the hunters
returned. . . .*

These game birds will
taste good.

Neb hasn't returned yet.
He should give up searching—
Captain Harding and his dog
are surely dead by now.

Suddenly, they heard a bark, and then. . . .

Top! He came back!

Could it be that Captain Harding is alive too? If he is, Top will lead us to his master.

Following the faithful dog, they came upon Neb. . .and a sad sight.

My master . . .is dead!

No! I feel a faint pulse. He's alive!

Last I remember, Top and I were drowning in the sea. Wh-who brought us here to safety on dry land?

The first hint of a big mystery sprang up on the strange island.

When they all returned to camp. . . .

Soon we'll warm up beside our fire. . . .

No, we won't. High tide came up during the night and wrecked our camp. The fire is out!

Cold and hungry, they tried to make a new fire in old ways. . . .

Rubbing two sticks together. . . No luck.

These weak sparks from a flintstone won't light that dry moss.

I'm much better, thanks to you men putting your coats around me, during the cold night. I will make a fire while the hunters are gone.

Fire? How can you work miracles, Captain?

At a lake, luck was with the hunters. . . .

Good boy, Top! Chase that caybara to shore. It's a wild pig and is delicious eating when roasted.

But Captain Harding must have failed to make a fire to roast it. Too bad!

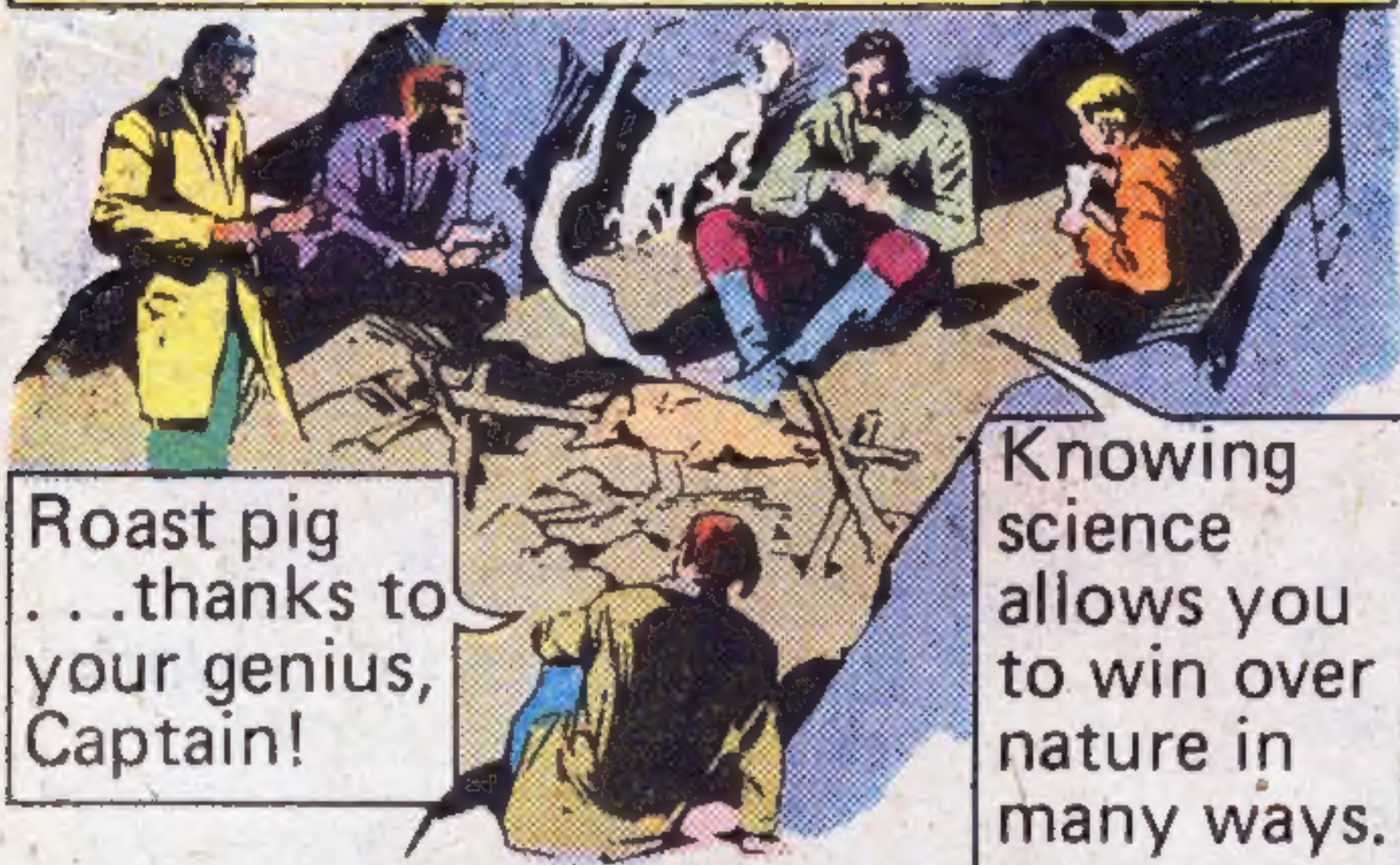
A big surprise, back at camp. . . .

Spilett and I had watches. I used the two curving glass crystals to make a lens, which forms a strong beam of sunshine that is hot enough to set fire to dried moss.

A fire! How in the world did you make it, Captain Harding?

Simple, Pencroft.

The others knew now what great thinking powers Captain Harding had and how they could depend on him to survive the hard days ahead.



Roast pig
...thanks to
your genius,
Captain!

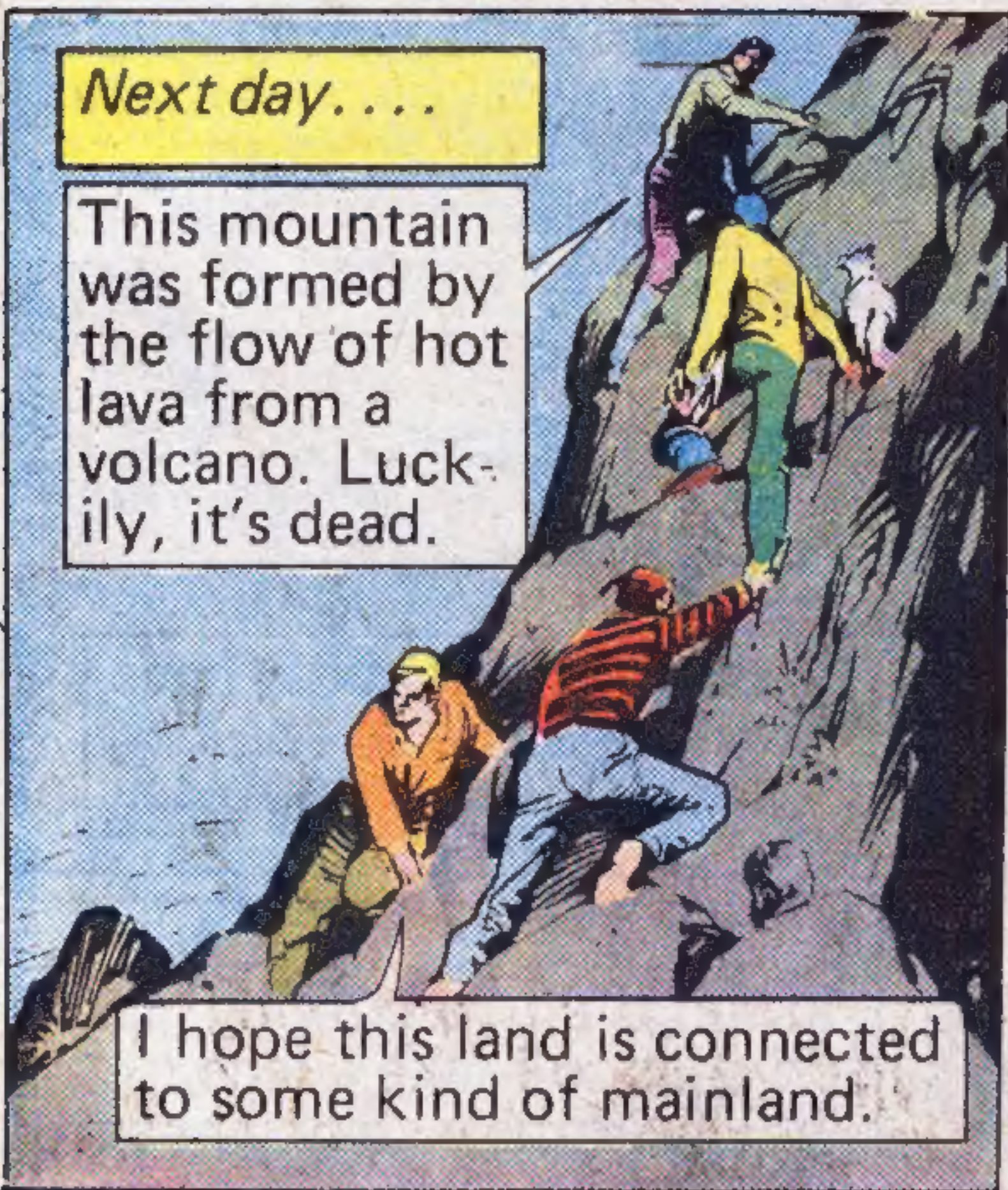
Knowing
science
allows you
to win over
nature in
many ways.



The next thing is to find
out if we are on an island
or not. Tomorrow we will
climb the highest hill and
see.

Next day....

This mountain
was formed by
the flow of hot
lava from a
volcano. Luck-
ily, it's dead.

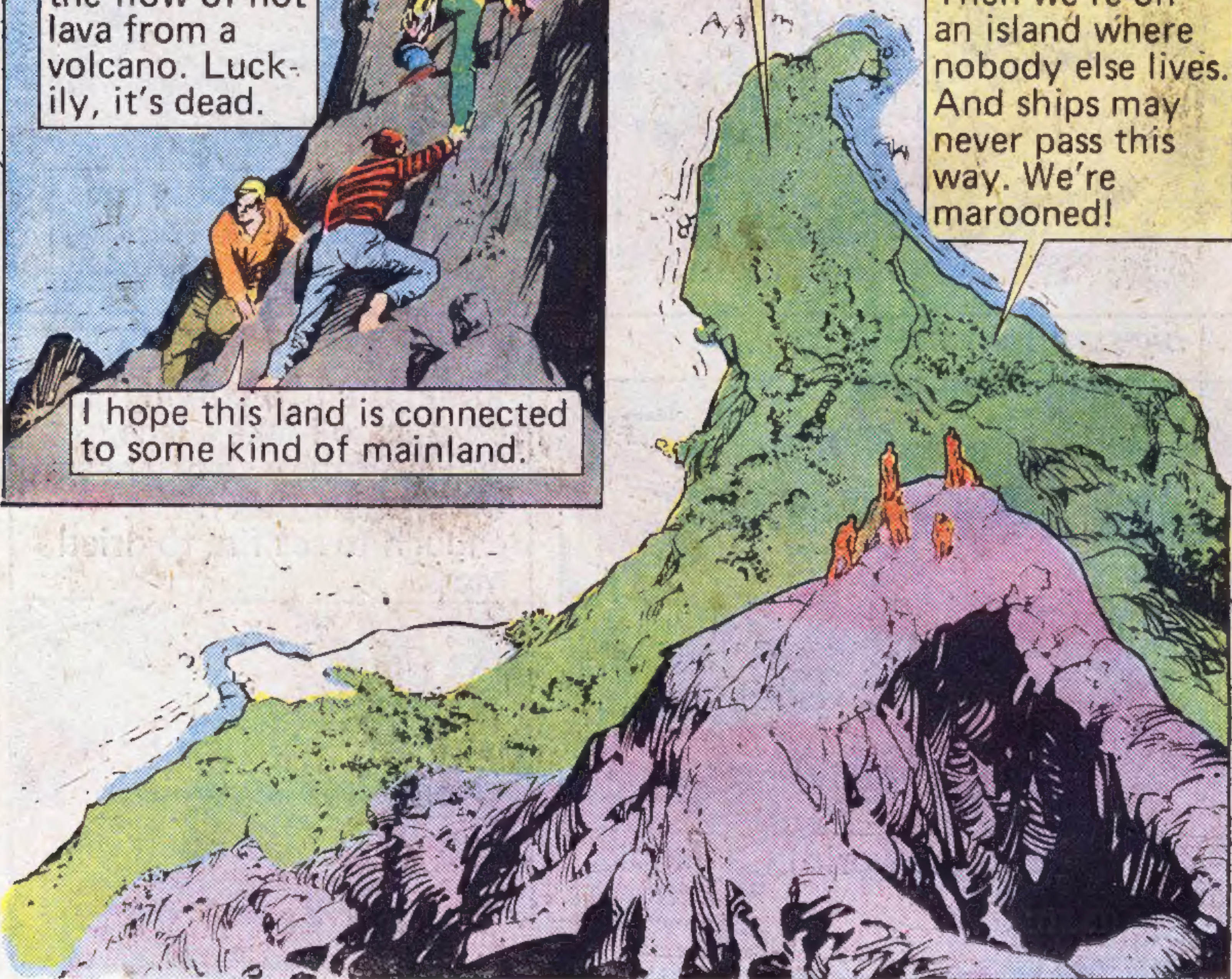


I hope this land is connected
to some kind of mainland.

But at the top....

The sea is all
around us!

Then we're on
an island where
nobody else lives.
And ships may
never pass this
way. We're
marooned!



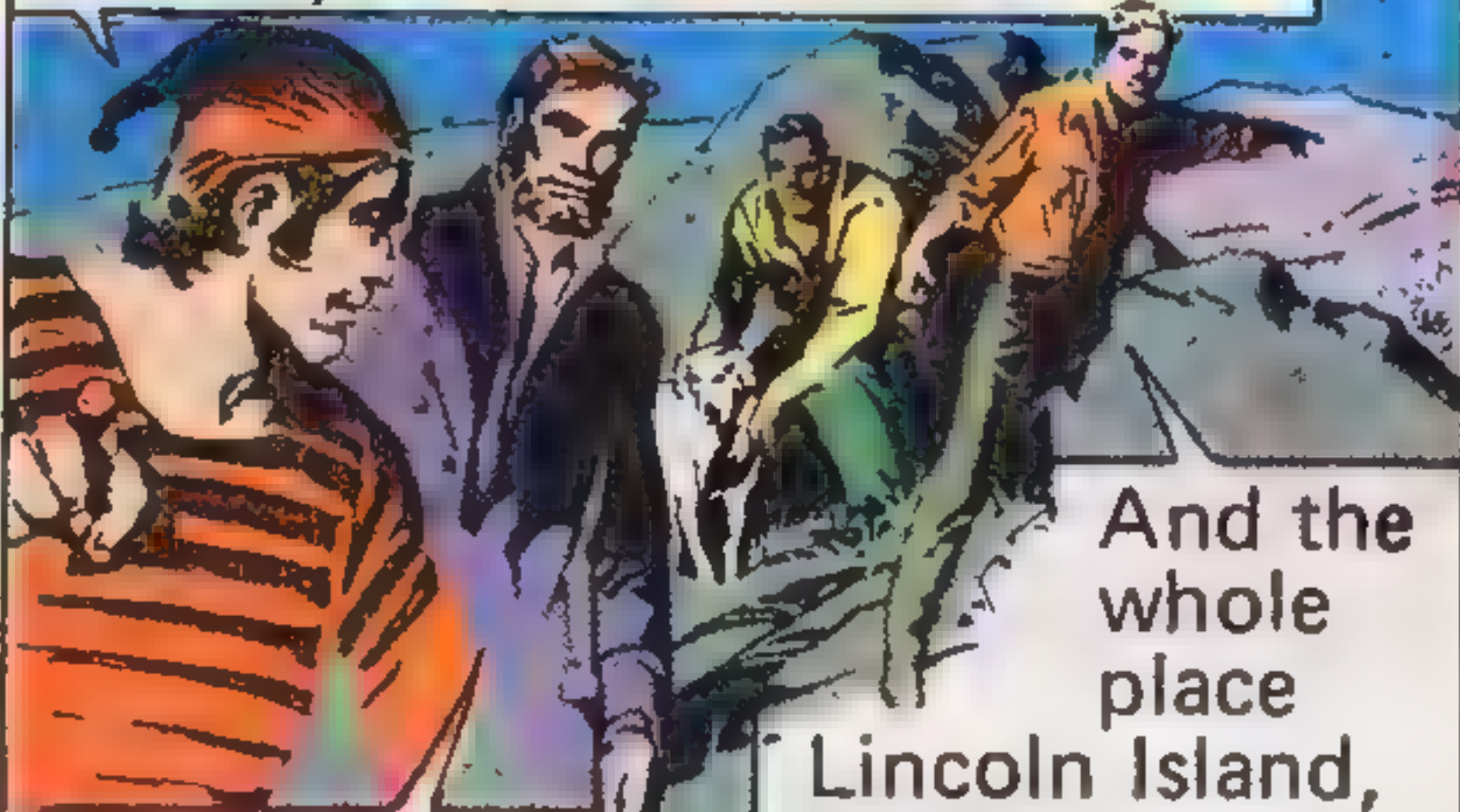
Captain Harding made a rough sketch. . . .



This island is about ten miles wide and thirty miles long. The shoreline is rocky. Let's name all the bays, rivers, lakes and such for our own use.

The excited men agreed. . . .

Franklin Mountain for what we stand on. Also Union Bay and Washington Bay in honor of our country.



Mercy River. It gave us firewood.

And the whole place
Lincoln Island,
for the great
President back
home!

Back at camp. . . .



I collected these minerals on the way. . . iron ore, limestone, coal lumps. Last, clay, which we'll use tomorrow.

At daybreak, after bringing a load of dry clay, . . .



Clay bricks! Useful for many things.

Hot fire will dry and harden the clay bricks in forty-eight hours.



Later....

Therel Now to make pottery and harden it in that kiln.



Finally....



Now we have all kinds of pottery. With your scientific know-how, Captain Harding, we'll soon live comfortably.

After a seal hunt for food, the seals were skinned. . . .



Work that sealskin bellows hard, Neb. The air-blast makes the coal fire hotter. . . and see? Melted iron is coming out.

From the iron came many hand-made tools. . . .



Pickaxe. . .crowbar. . .shovel. . . pincers. . .we can make any tool we need.

One day, during a hunt at Lake Ulysses Grant. . . .

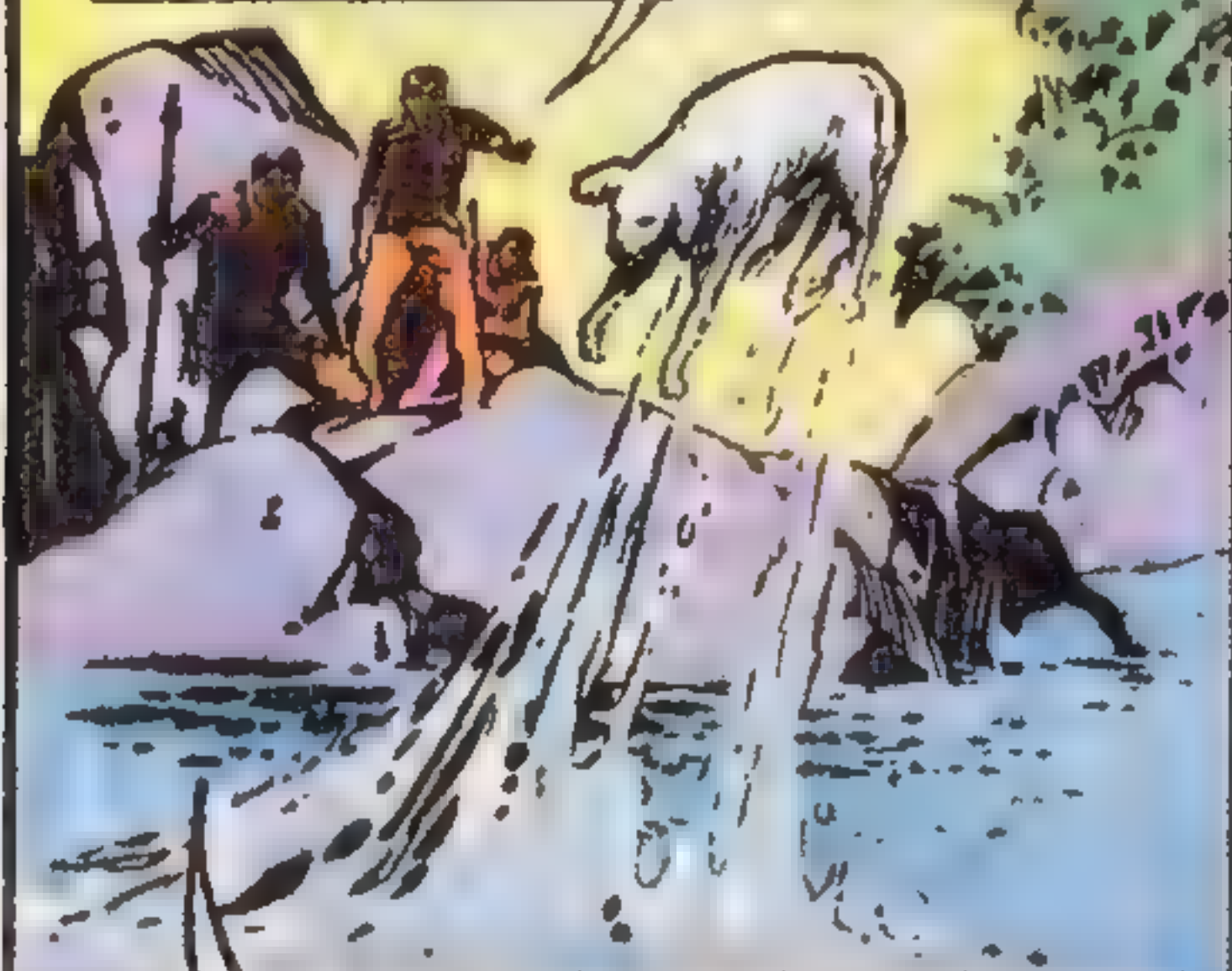
That dugong seized your dog in his jaws!



Poor Top! That's the end of him.

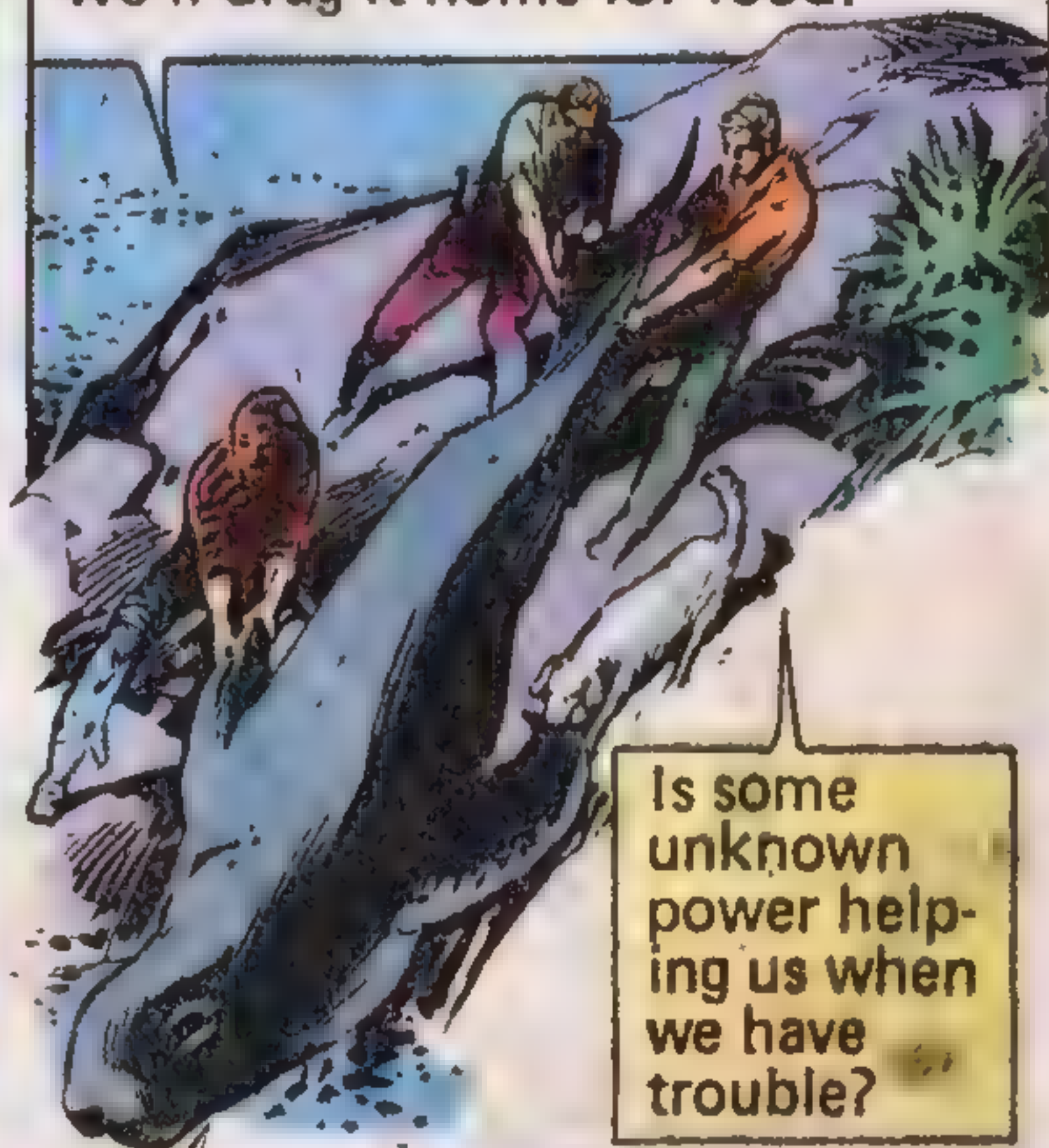
But surprisingly. . . .

Look, Captain! Top was somehow flung out of the water, safe and sound!



Amazing! Another part of the mystery of this island,

Something killed the dugong too. We'll drag it home for food.



Is some unknown power helping us when we have trouble?

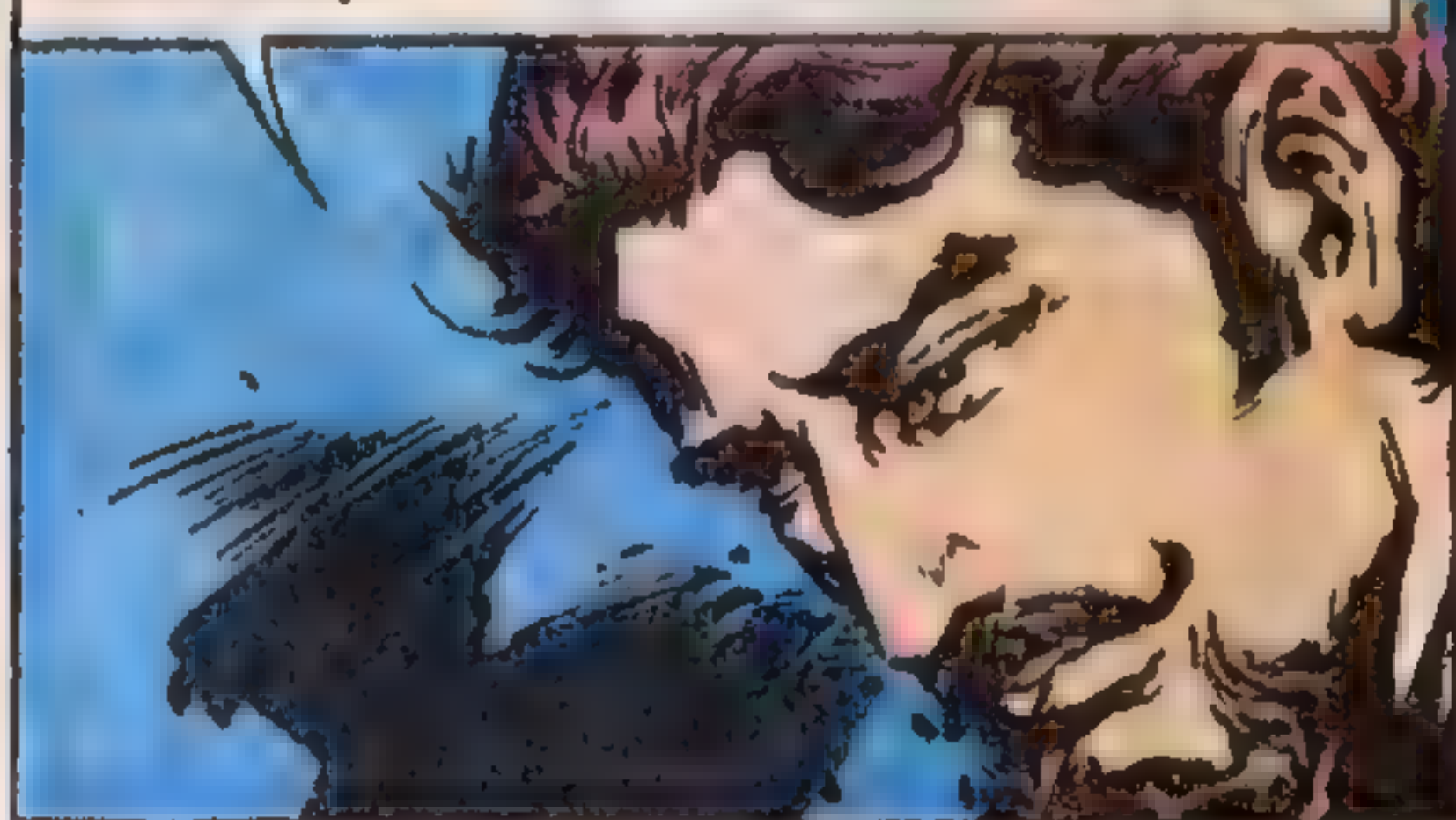
Exploring the lake's edge. . . .



The lake water pours into this hole and travels into the sea. If we lower the water level of the lake three feet, we'll find a big cave system.

Captain Harding outlined another scientific job. . . .

Iron pyrites. . . fat from the dugong . . . lime. . . soda ash from seaweeds. Heated together they'll make sulfuric acid. That plus saltpeter will make szotic or nitric acid. Get busy.



Days later. . . .

Stand back!
Mixing nitric
acid and glycer-
ine from dugong
fat produces
nitroglycerine,
a powerful
explosive.

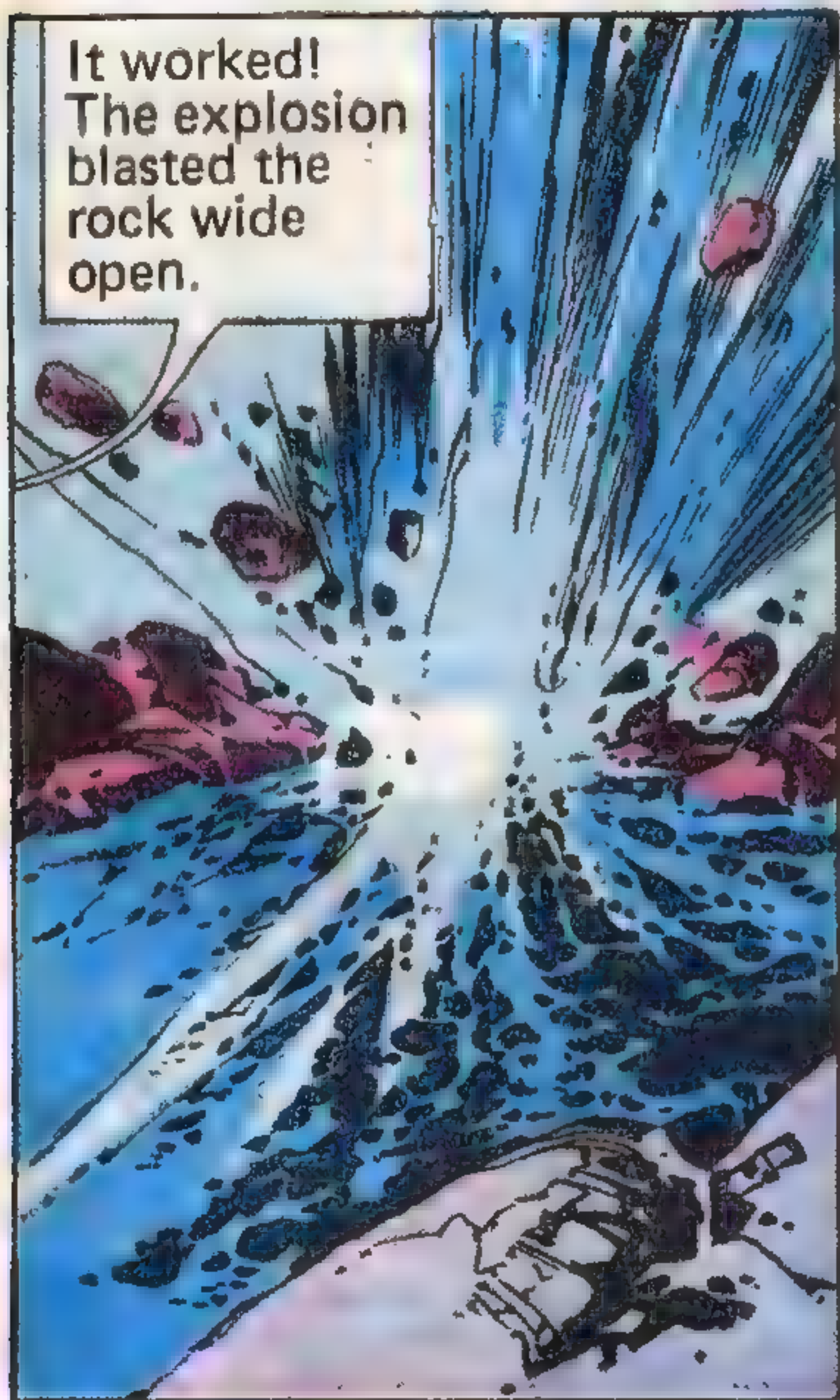


*Back at the lake but at the
other end. . . .*



Now to place the nitroglycerine
in that hollow you dug out,
Pencroft. Then I'll attach a
fuse.

It worked!
The explosion
blasted the
rock wide
open.



The water will
drain down to the
beach now and lower
the lake's level three
feet.

Then, where the water used to flow out of the small hole. . . .



That hole is high and dry now. And we can chop our way into a large cave system.

After exploring a mile through winding passages. . . .



Look, master!
A giant room
of rock.



Good! We'll make our new home here, safe from storms, cold weather, and wild animals.

At one side. . . .



A deep pit like a well! And Top is all excited.

Hmm! I can't see bottom but I hear water lapping below. I wonder if this is a clue to our big mystery?

Before the marooned men moved in. . . .



Luckily that wall is thin. Chop out five windows and a door that will let us enter easily.

Rope ladders of tough vines were made and soon. . . .

We can climb straight up to our doorway.

Won't take long to move all our goods into our new home.

Inside. . . .

These brick walls will divide the cave into rooms.

It'll be like a real home!

Lighting was needed. . . and Captain Harding again came through.

After settling comfortably with home-made furniture. . . .

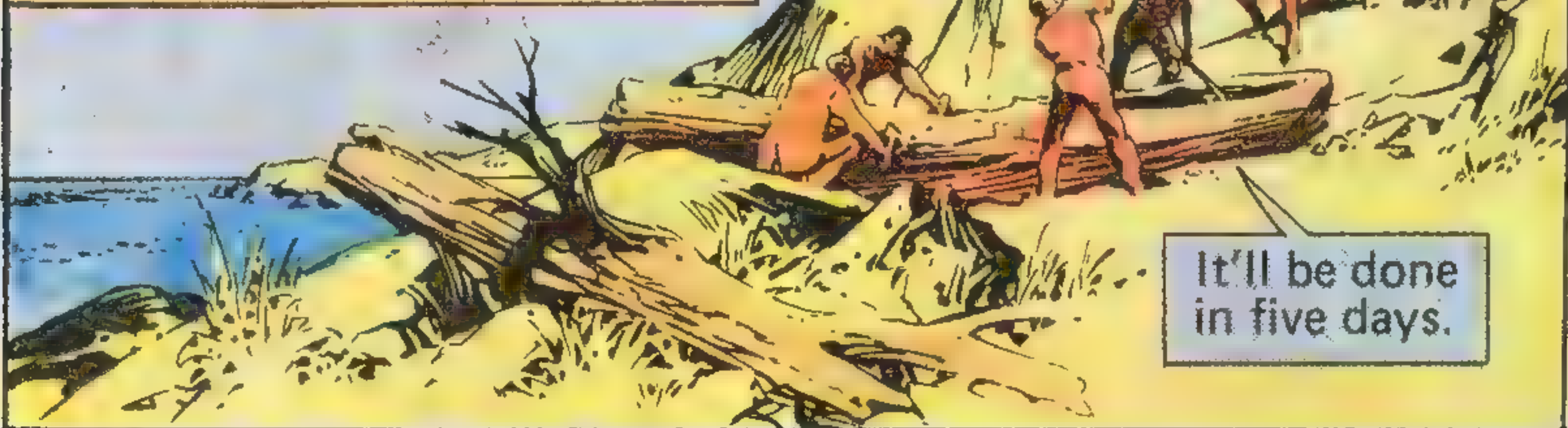
One day, an important find. . . .

Sulfuric acid. . . seal fat . . . lime. . . boiled together to produce wax. . . and we have candles.

A haircut, Neb, my friend! I sure need it.

Look, men! I found a grain of corn caught in my clothes. We can start a garden.

As the warmer weather came, Harding let the sailor build a canoe with help from the others.



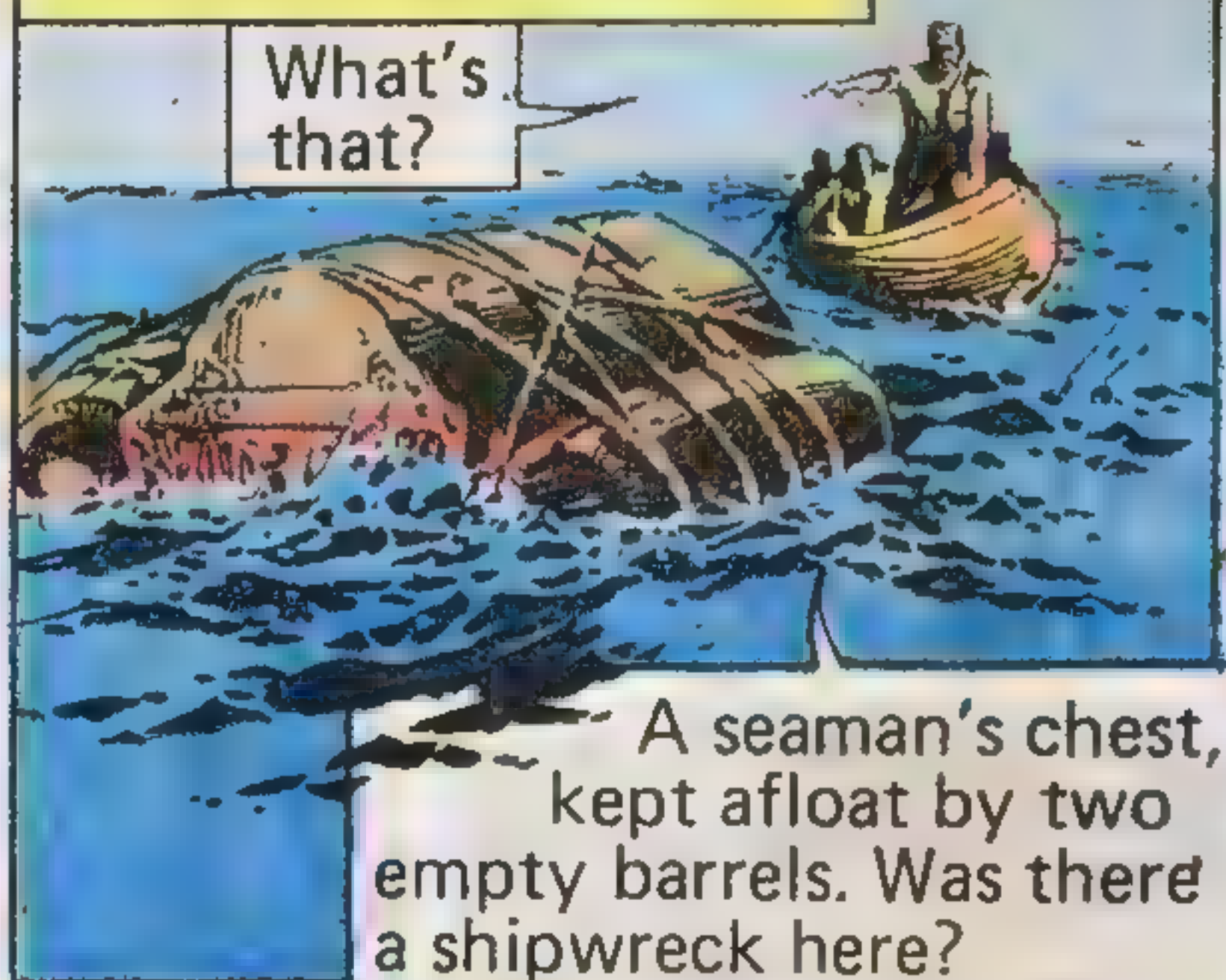
It'll be done in five days.

And the sixth day. . . .



It's time we explored more of the island's shore.

Hours later, they came on a surprise.



What's that?

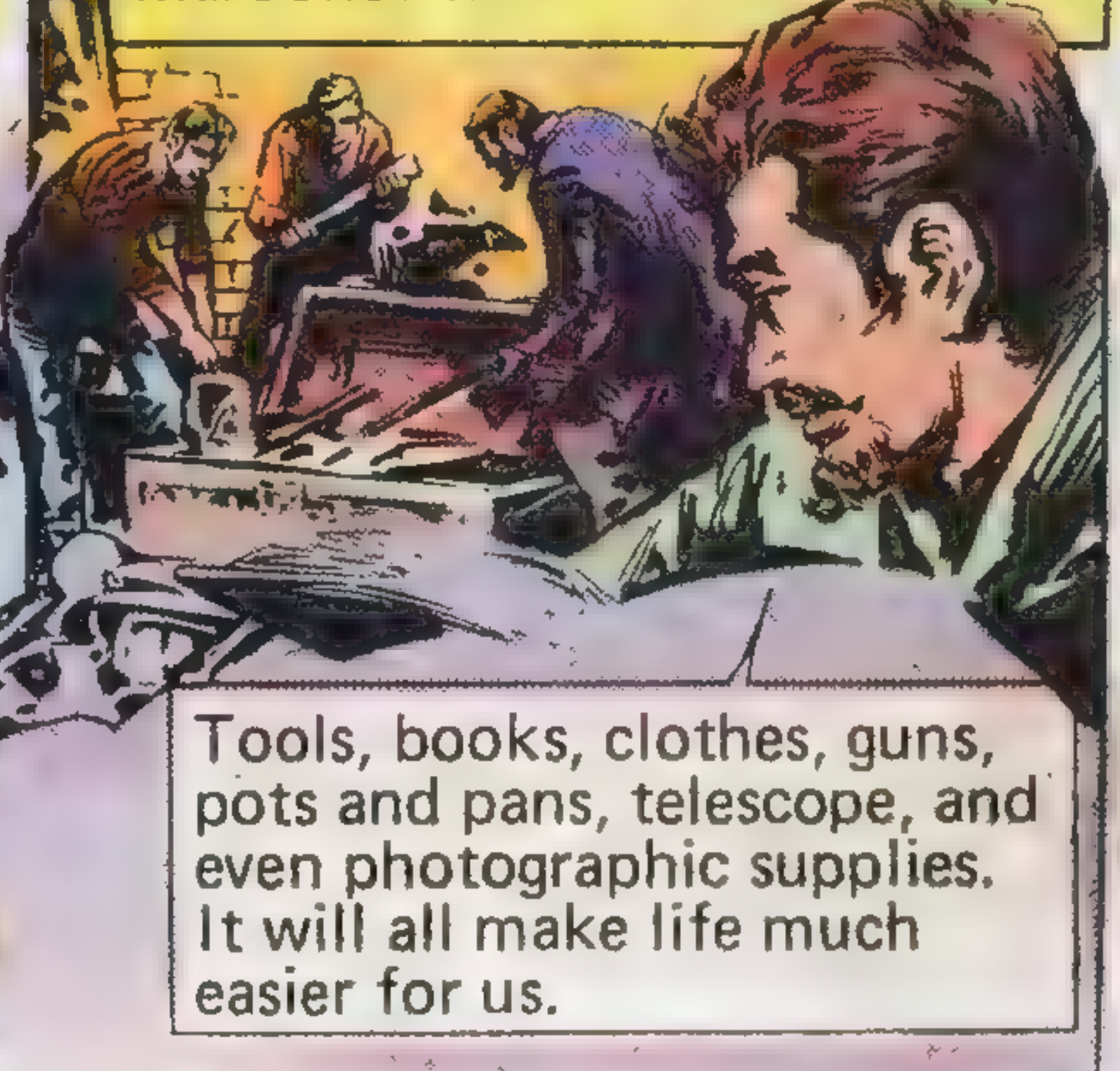
A seaman's chest, kept afloat by two empty barrels. Was there a shipwreck here?

But there was no sunken ship in sight and soon. . . .

Pull the chest back to Granite House and we'll see what's in it.



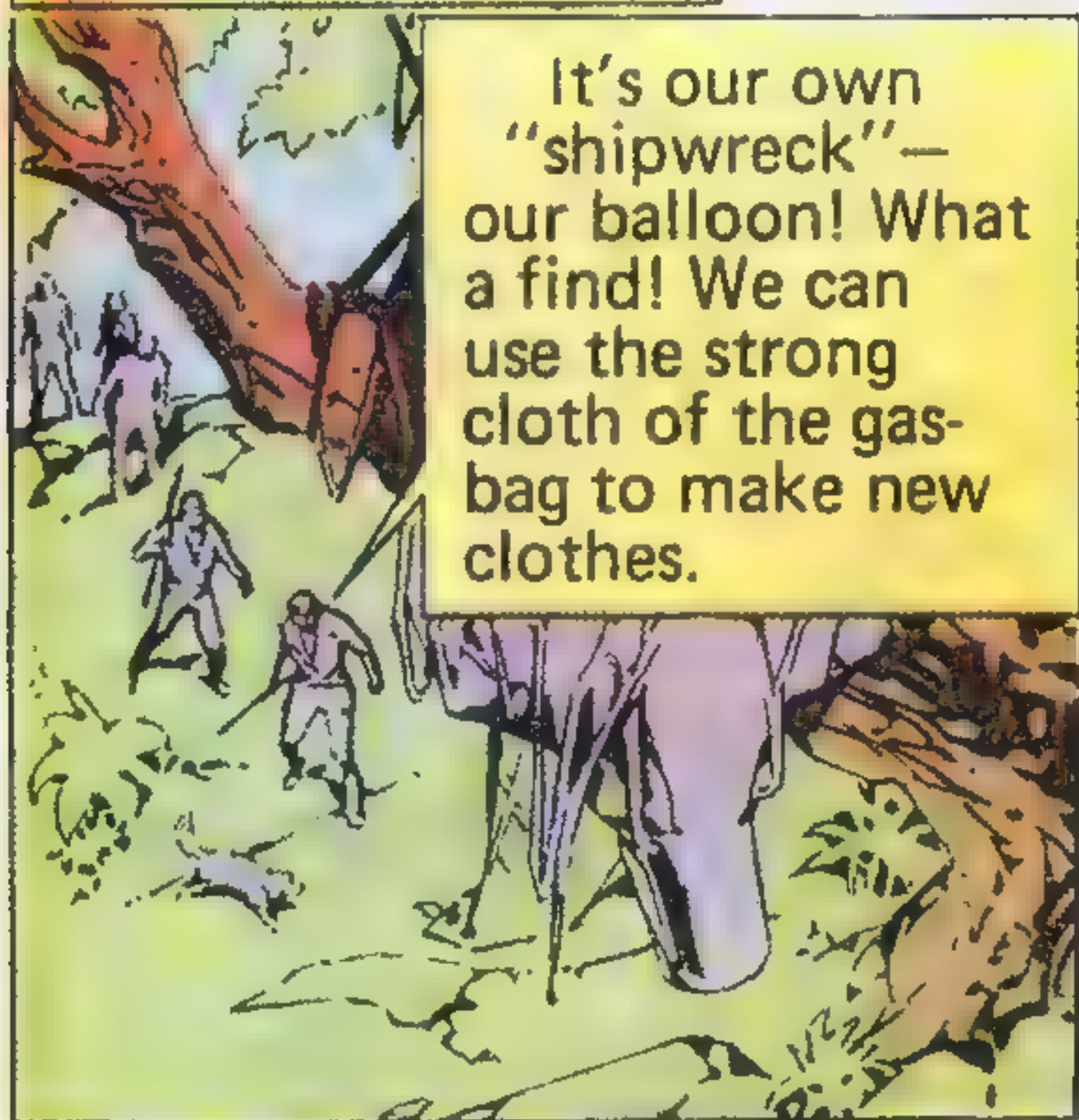
It was like a treasure to the marooned men.



Tools, books, clothes, guns, pots and pans, telescope, and even photographic supplies. It will all make life much easier for us.

*On another day,
another surprise. . . .*

It's our own
"shipwreck"—
our balloon! What
a find! We can
use the strong
cloth of the gas-
bag to make new
clothes.



*After all hands dragged it free
and carried it to the shore. . . .*



Whew! That was
hard work. But we
have got it stored away
safely, until we can
carry it to our home.

Upon their return another surprise. . . .



Our lower rope
ladder was pulled
up! How can we
climb up? And
who did it?

*Herbert shot an arrow
and. . . .*



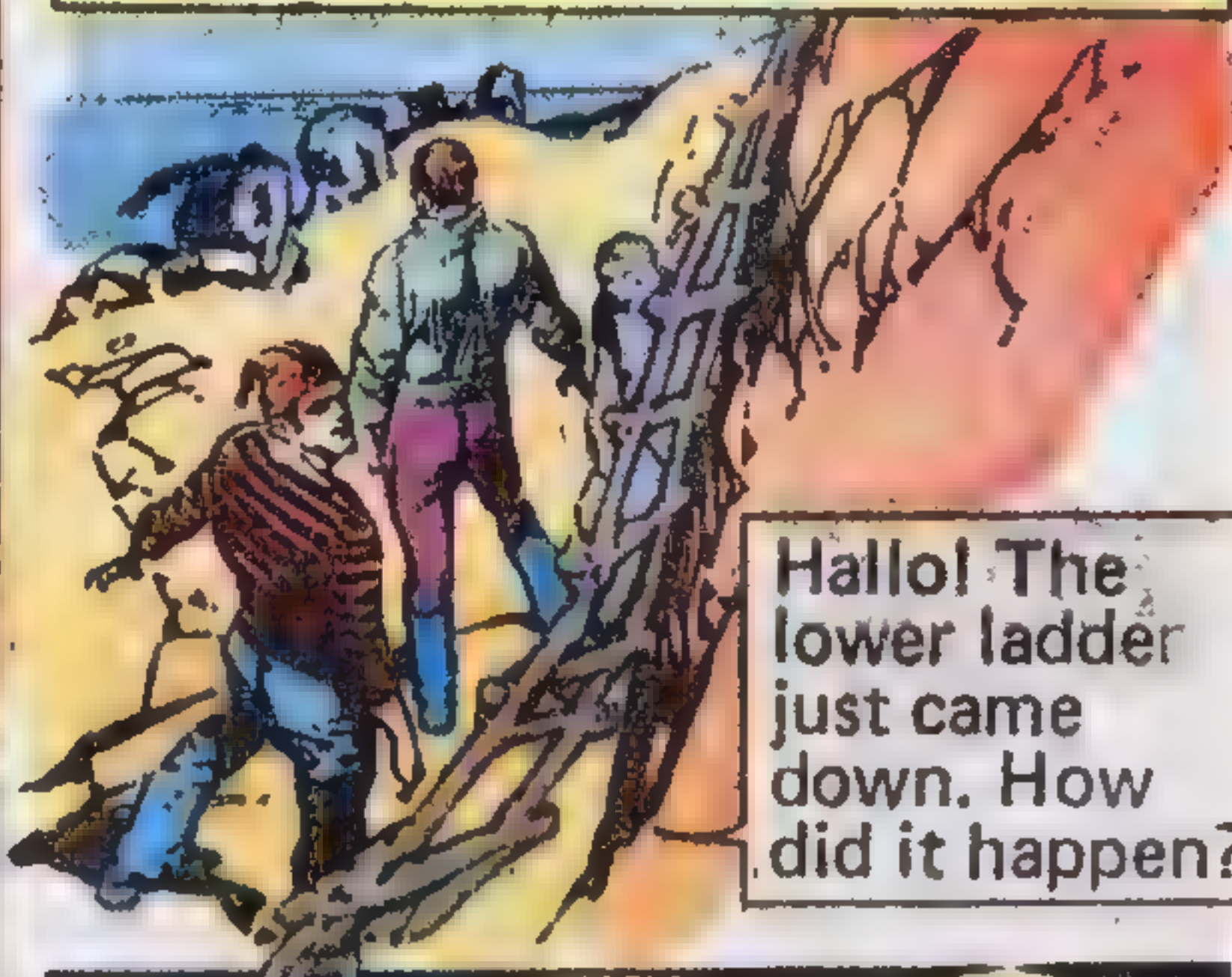
Now we can pull the
ladder down. . . oh, no!
An arm reached out to
pull the ladder into the
doorway! It's an ape's
hairy arm!

The unhappy men could not enter their home, but suddenly. . . .



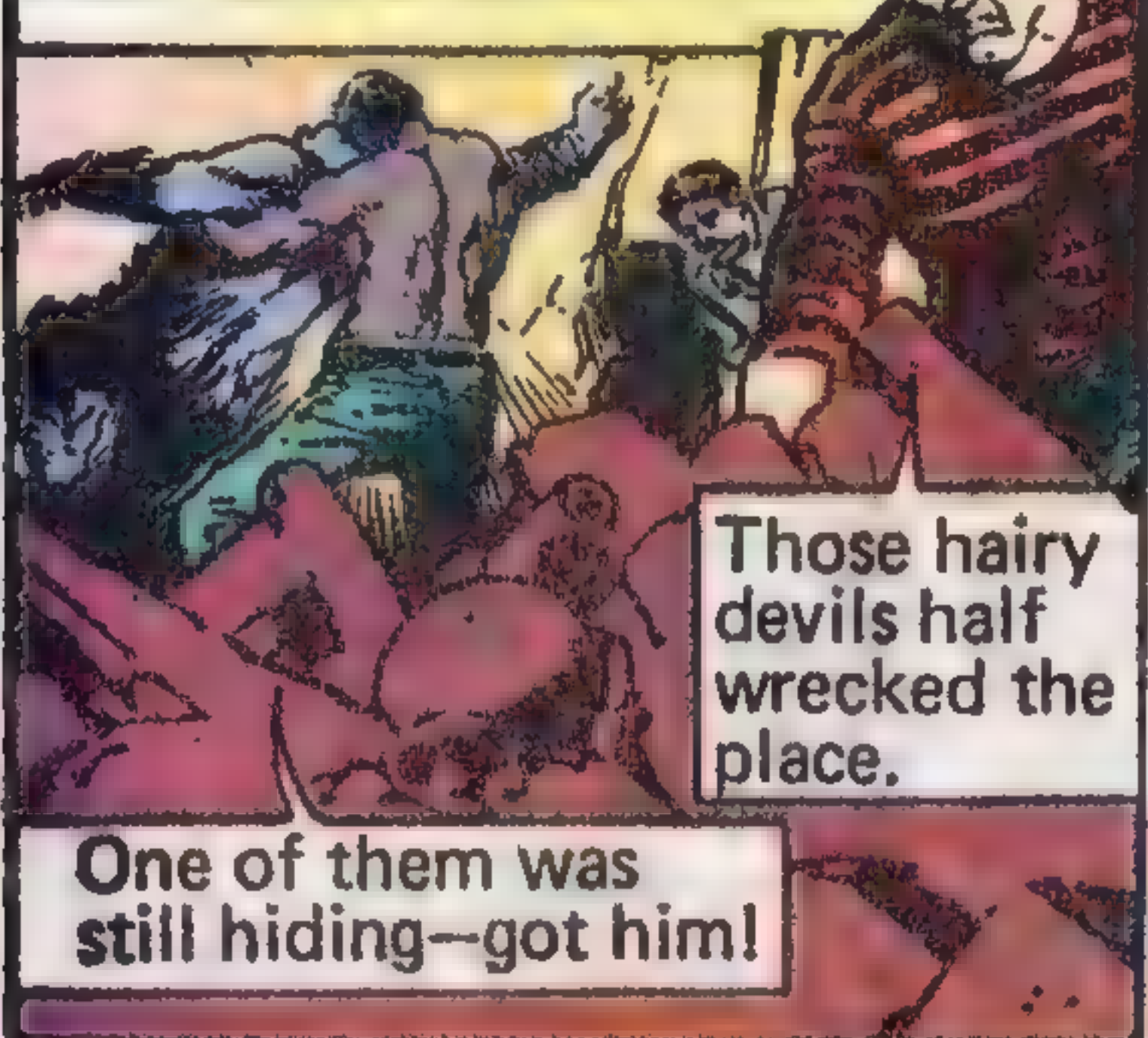
Aha! Something inside scared those apes, and they're running away.

While the men were too excited to notice, a strange thing happened. . . .



Hallo! The lower ladder just came down. How did it happen?

Soon, inside their rock-walled home. . . .



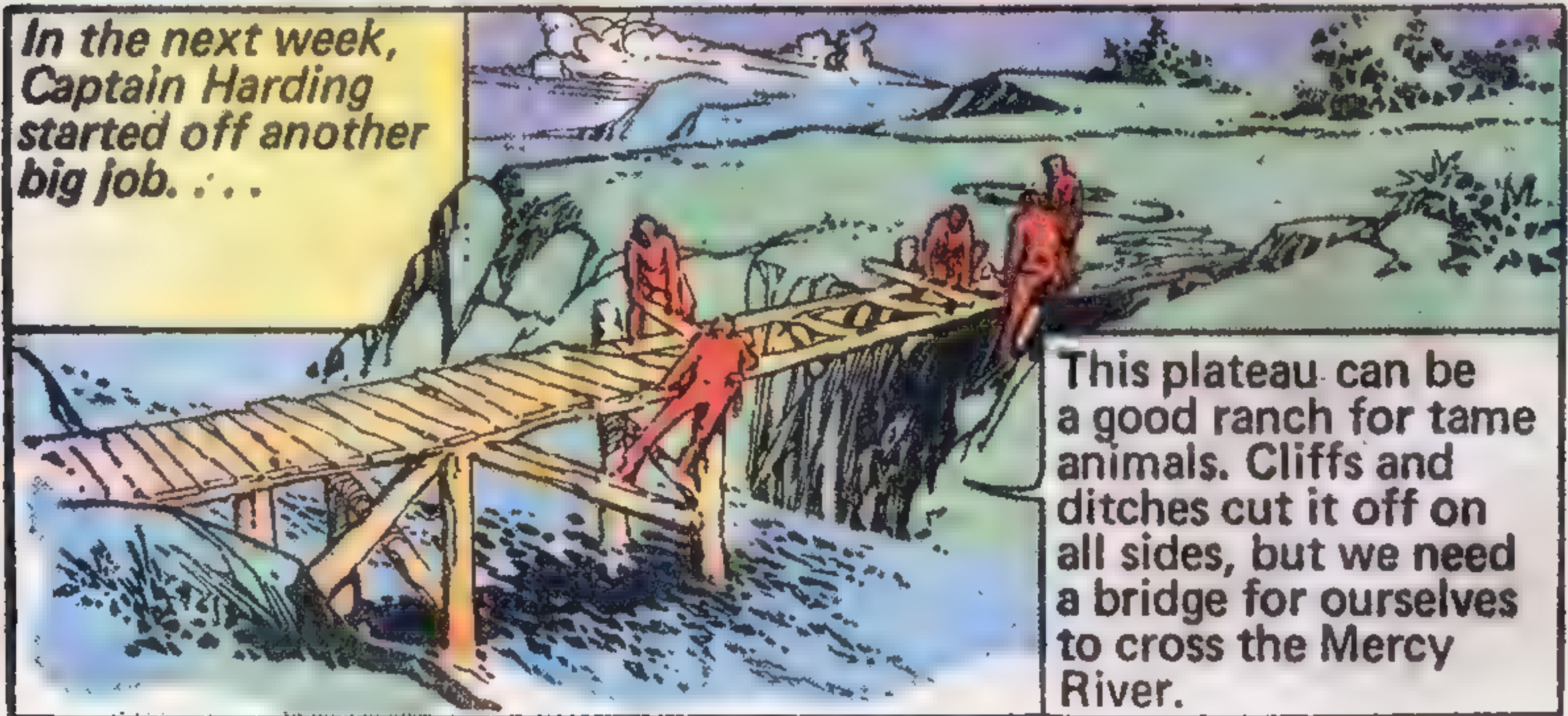
Those hairy devils half wrecked the place.

One of them was still hiding—got him!



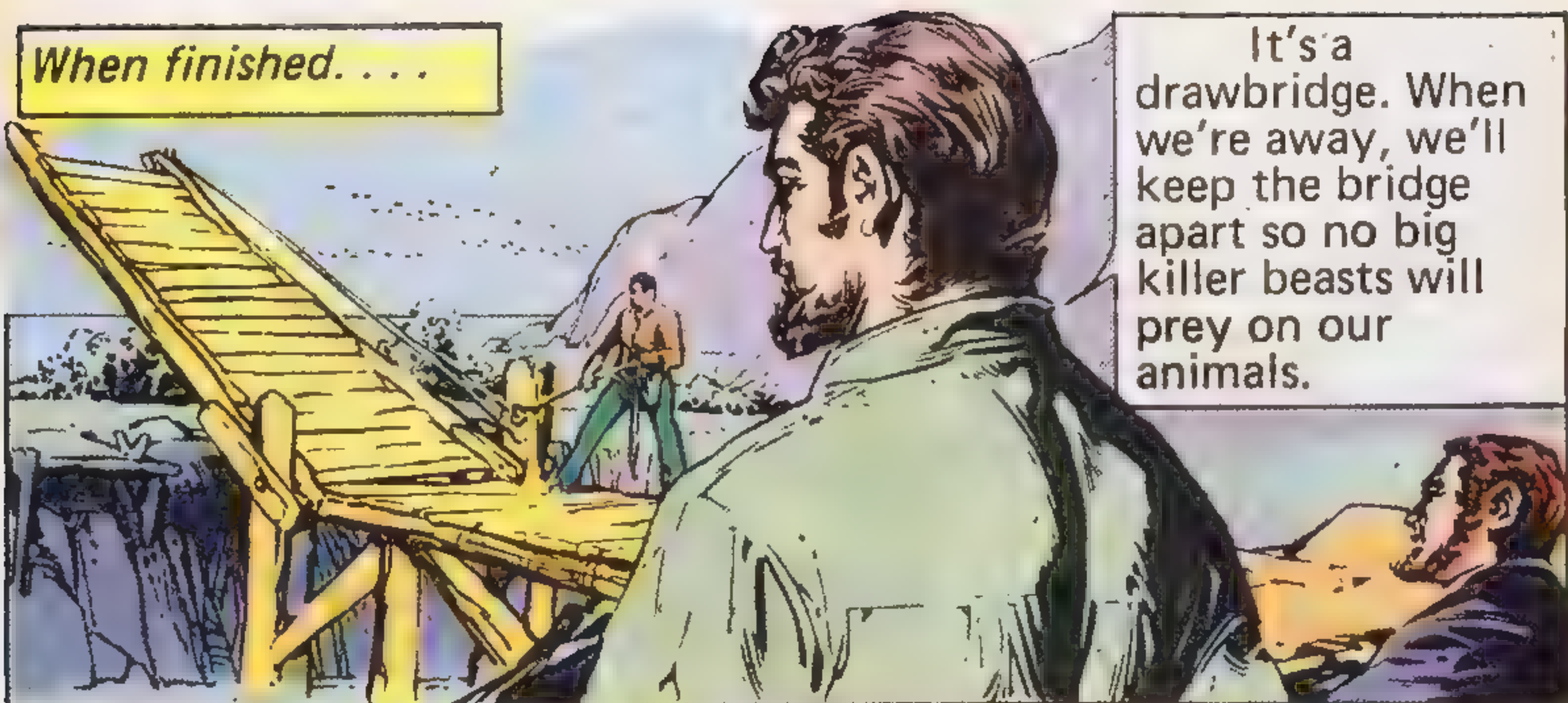
Don't harm him. Orangutans can become good servants. I'll train him. He should have a name—how about Jupiter? Or Jup for short.

In the next week, Captain Harding started off another big job. . . .



This plateau can be a good ranch for tame animals. Cliffs and ditches cut it off on all sides, but we need a bridge for ourselves to cross the Mercy River.

When finished. . . .



It's a drawbridge. When we're away, we'll keep the bridge apart so no big killer beasts will prey on our animals.

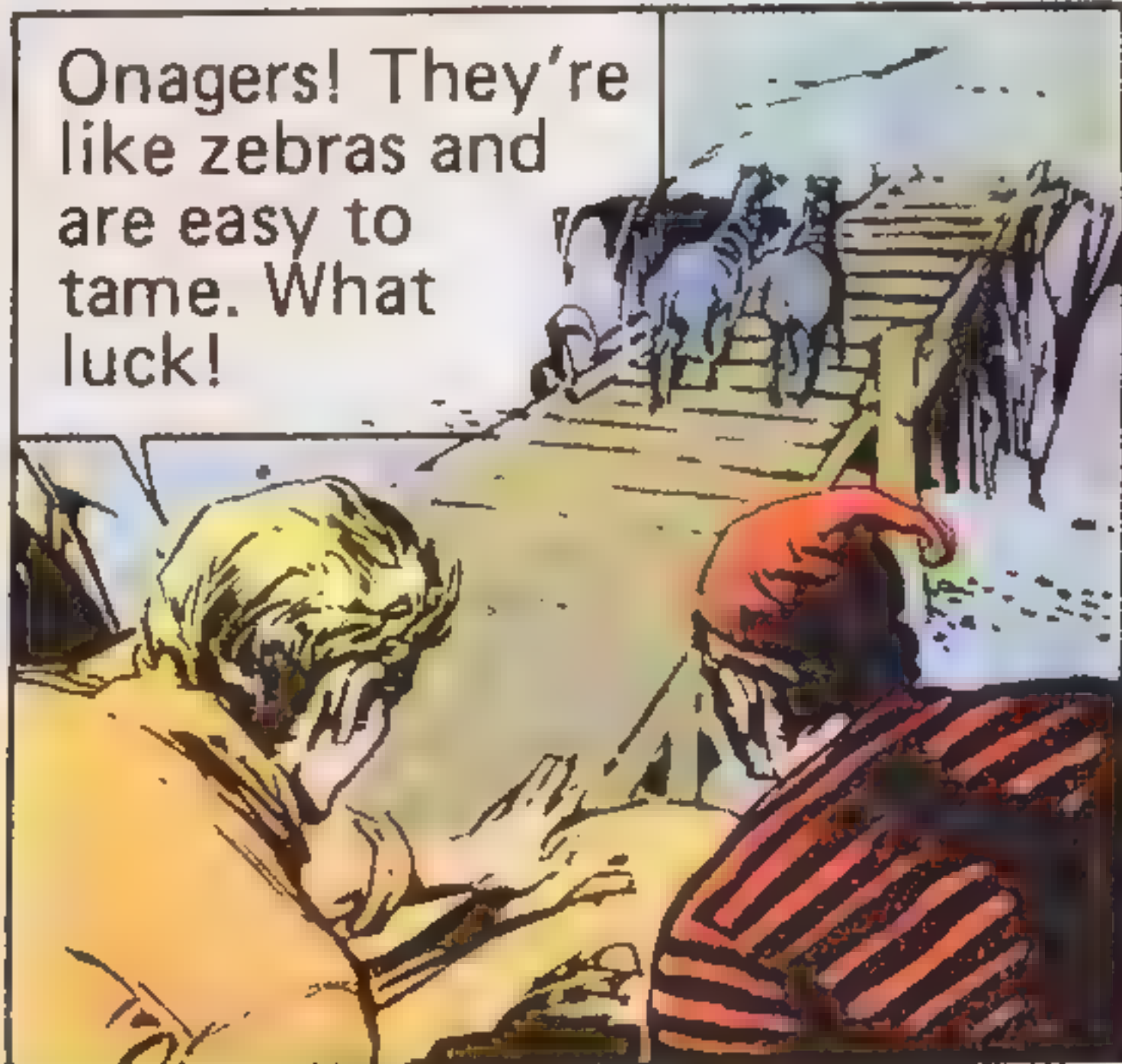
As time went on, they first captured and tamed large birds for their poultry yard.



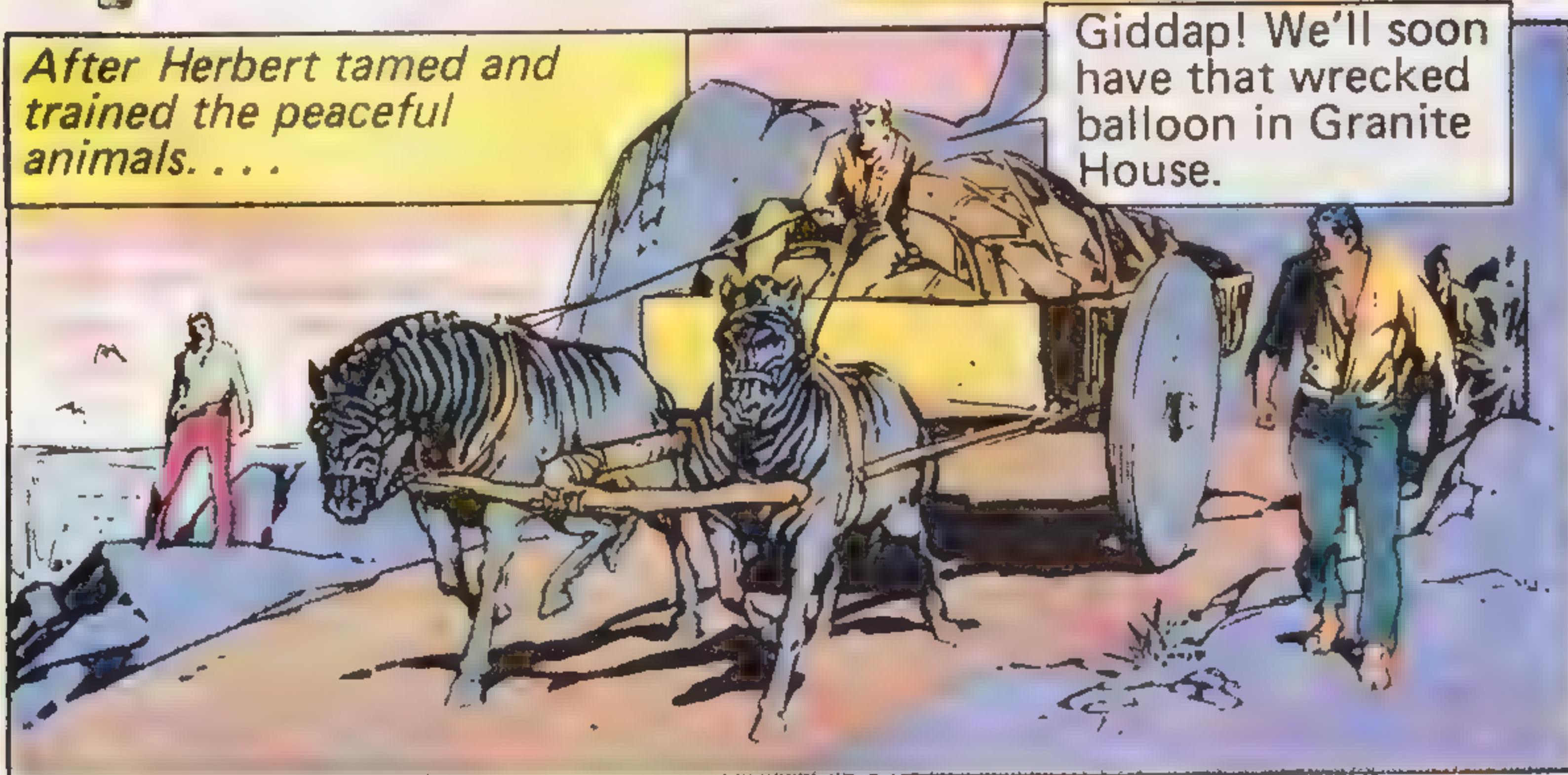
We'll trap and tame the animals next.

To their surprise, the first animals came by themselves. . . .

Onagers! They're like zebras and are easy to tame. What luck!

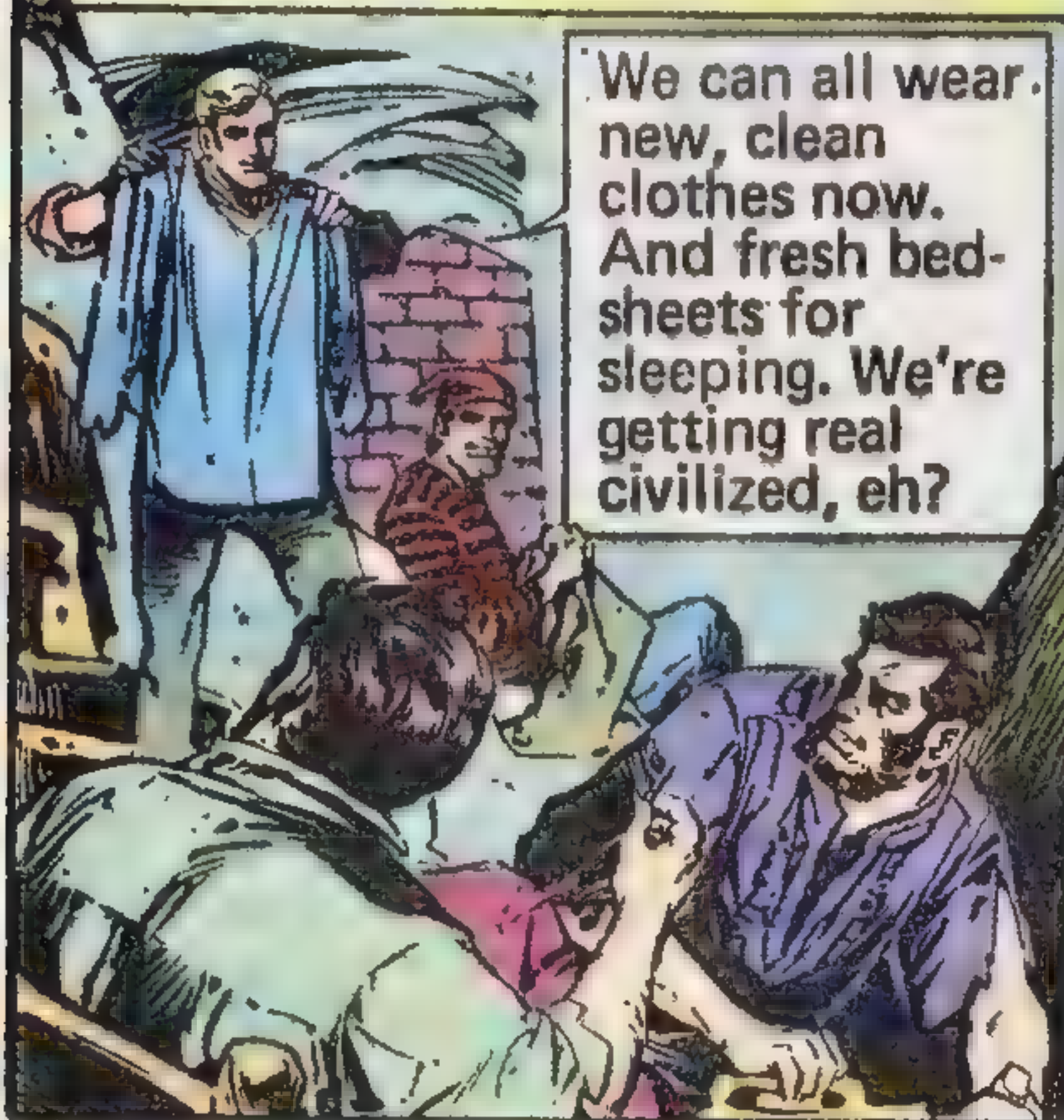


After Herbert tamed and trained the peaceful animals. . . .



Giddap! We'll soon have that wrecked balloon in Granite House.

The heavy cotton cloth proved a blessing. . . .



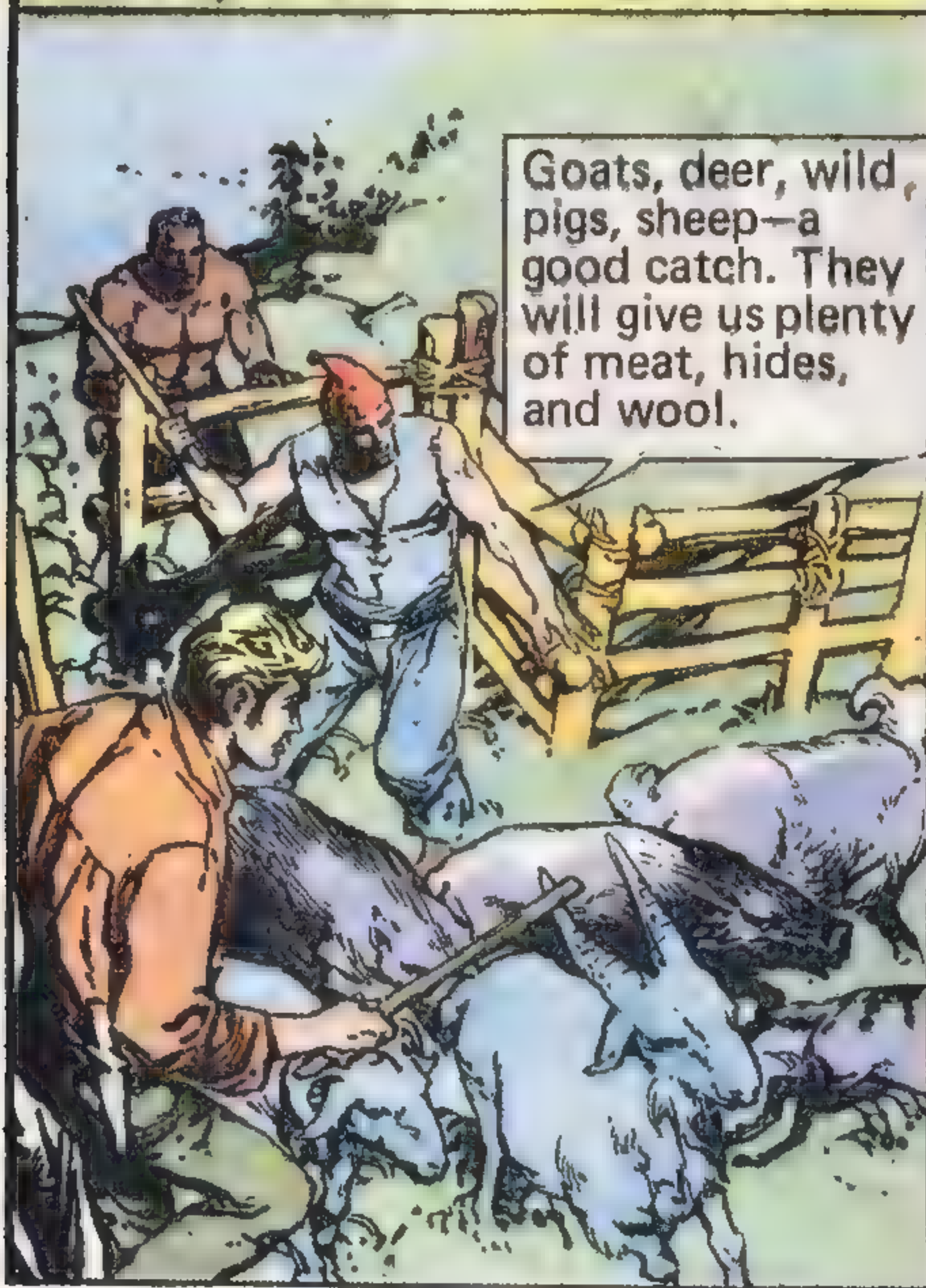
We can all wear new, clean clothes now. And fresh bed-sheets for sleeping. We're getting real civilized, eh?

They even had a servant now. . . .



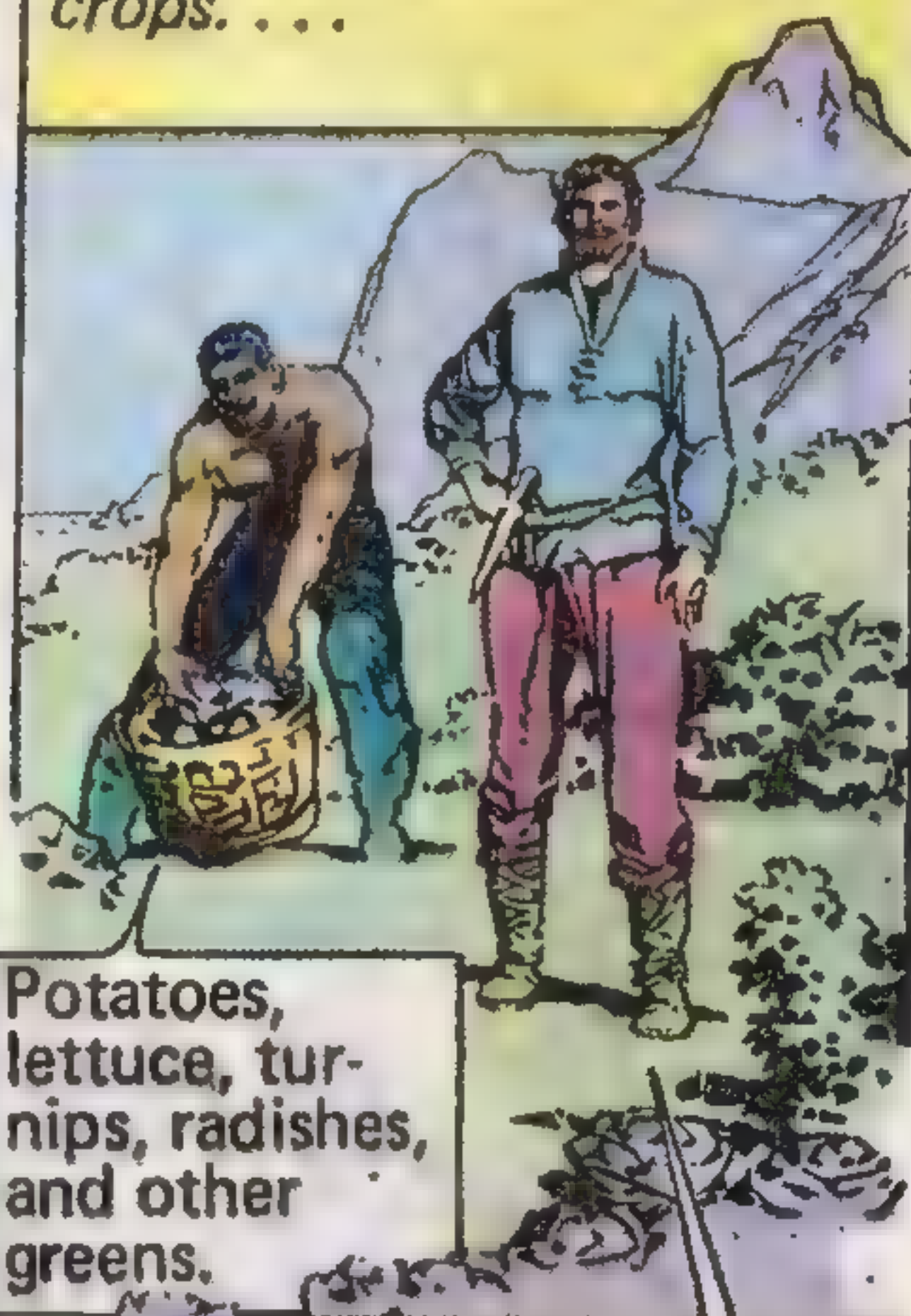
In India, they often train orangutans to wait on the table. They're quite intelligent. More soup, Jup!

Round-up time came for their corral. . . .



Goats, deer, wild, pigs, sheep—a good catch. They will give us plenty of meat, hides, and wool.

Their garden was also growing well with many crops. . . .



Potatoes, lettuce, turnips, radishes, and other greens.

And all from those seeds we found in that floating chest. We'll eat very well.



No more
climbing those
rope ladders!

....and
also another
useful material.

Good work, lad!
You're getting to be
an expert glass blower.

*Captain Harding's genius next gave
them a machine to raise a lift up
to their home.*

All the men admired Captain Harding, Jack Pencroft the most.

The Captain just mixed chemicals under heat and presto—we have glass! By glory, there isn't any miracle he can't do. He gave us fire, bricks, iron, explosives, and all the rest!

One day, Captain Harding announced something exciting.

I just remembered. There is another island about 150 miles to the northeast, Tabor Island. We could visit it if we had a boat bigger than our canoe, like a regular sailship.

And work was begun with Harding's plans and Pencroft's boat-making skill.

How long will it take, Pencroft?

A couple of months, Captain, if I keep the crew working hard.

Pencroft was rewarded one day, when a hunting party returned. . . .

We found wild tobacco plants. You can smoke all you want.

Heaven be praised! This makes living worthwhile.

One day when the others were all away from Granite House, Captain Harding used the old rope ladders and. . . .

When spring—in October—came again, their ship was finished.

Top and Jup are often excited about this well. I wonder if the answer to the mysteries of this island lie down here?

No. . . .
No sign of anybody. . .

The Bonadventure did well on this trial trip, Captain. She's ready to sail for Tabor Island.

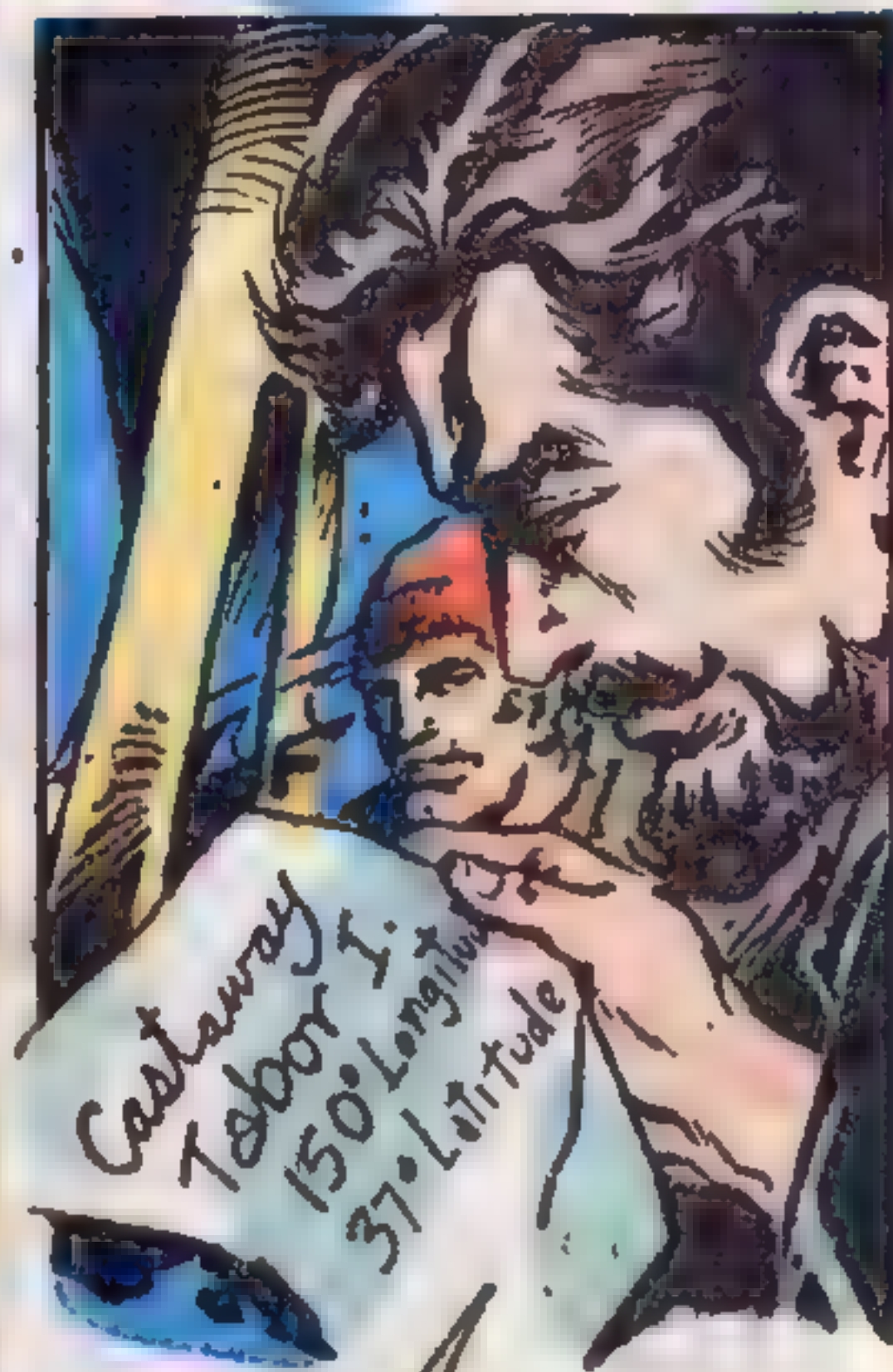
But Captain Harding was worried. . . .

Tabor is nothing but a small, lifeless island. Why should we risk our lives to visit it? Not a soul could live there.

Suddenly, something was seen in the water, and. . . .



A sealed bottle floating by! And there's a message inside.



Hmm! Looks like you'll get your wish and sail to Tabor Island after all, Pencroft! A shipwrecked man is there.

But Captain. . . oh, what's the use? You keep saying no.

Captain Harding and Neb stayed behind, while Jack Pencroft, Herbert Brown, and Gideon Spilett sailed for Tabor Island.

Farewell and good luck!

Our first separation in fifteen months! But they should return in one week. . . if all goes well.

About forty-eight hours later. . .

Land ahoy! From a distance, Tabor Island looked like no more than six miles long.

Now to find that survivor.

They came first upon signs that someone lived there.

A garden! We can take some vegetables along for their seeds!

And look—tame pigs, big fat ones. We ought to catch a few.

Their hunt continued and later. . . .

This old hut hasn't been lived in for years. Where is the man?

Guess we have to split up and keep searching for him.

On their way, the sailor and reporter stopped to capture pigs. . . .

No sense leaving these fat porkers to go to waste.

Wait. . . I hear Herbert yelling!

H-e-l-p!

Rushing toward the sound. . . .

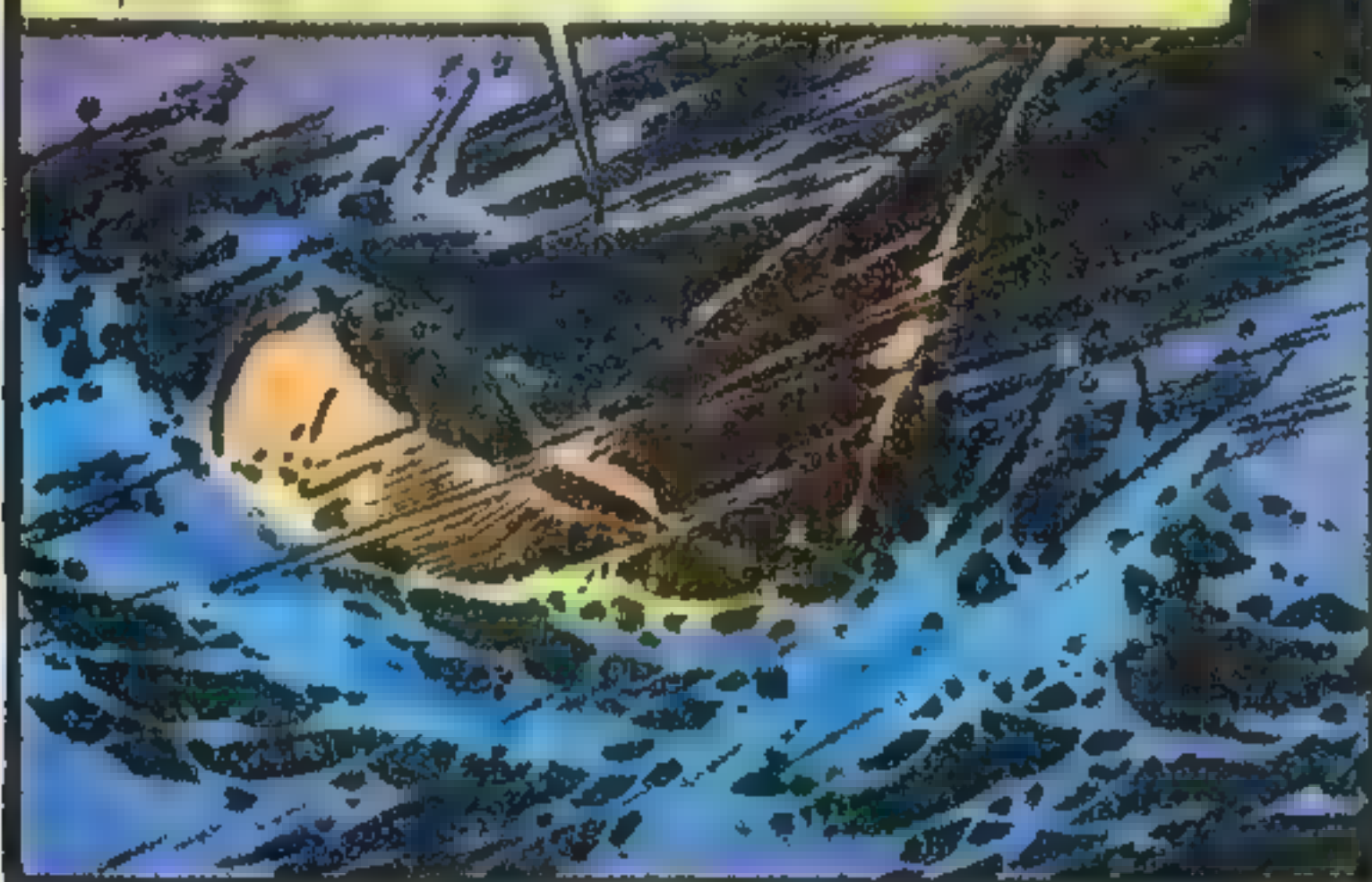
Th-this wild creature attacked me.

Is it an ape? We'll tie him up.

He's not a wild ape. He is the shipwrecked sailor. He won't, or can't even talk.

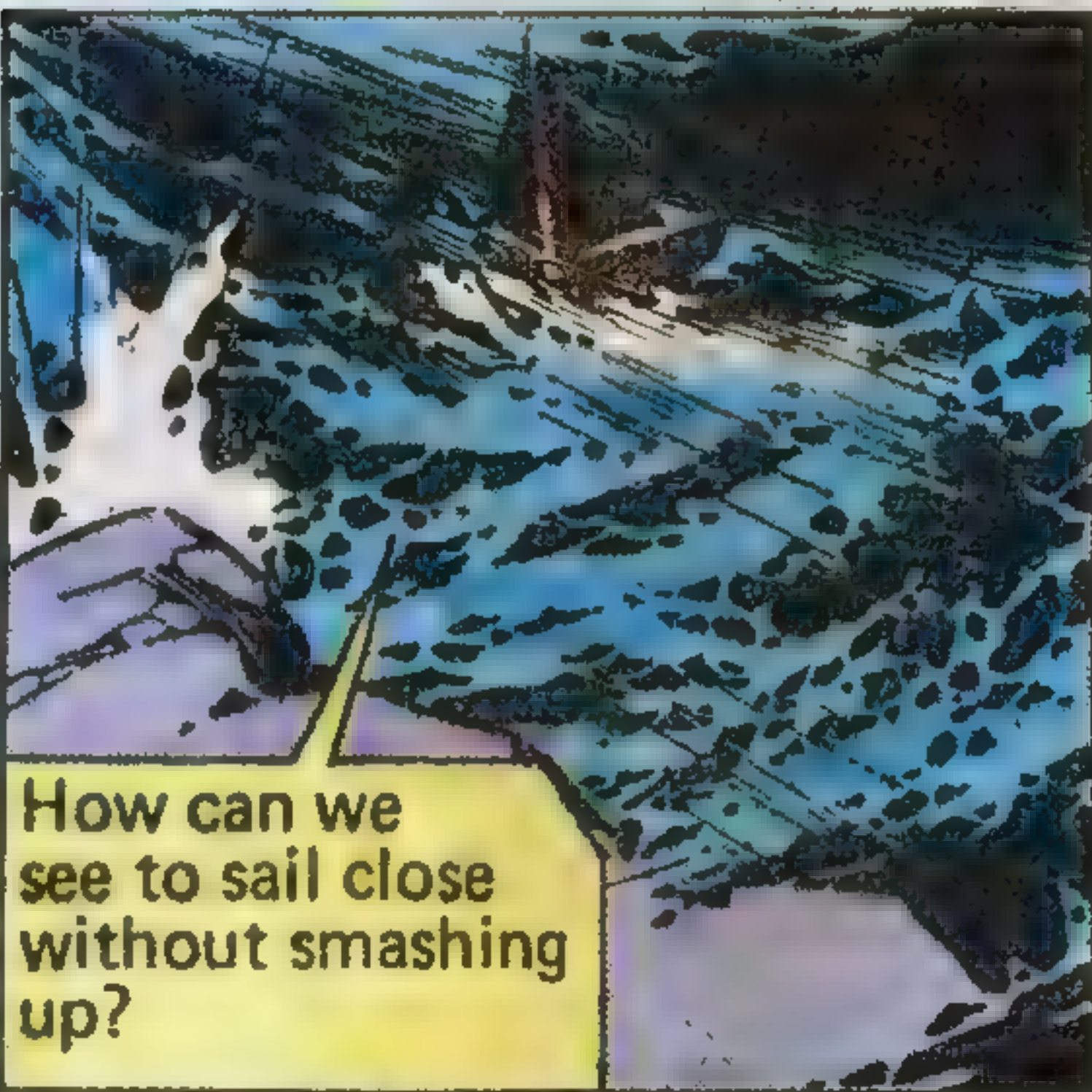
On the return trip, the Bonadventure met trouble.

A bad storm! It'll take us days to get back to Lincoln Island...if we're lucky to make it.



Even when they finally reached their home island. . . .

How can we see to sail close without smashing up?



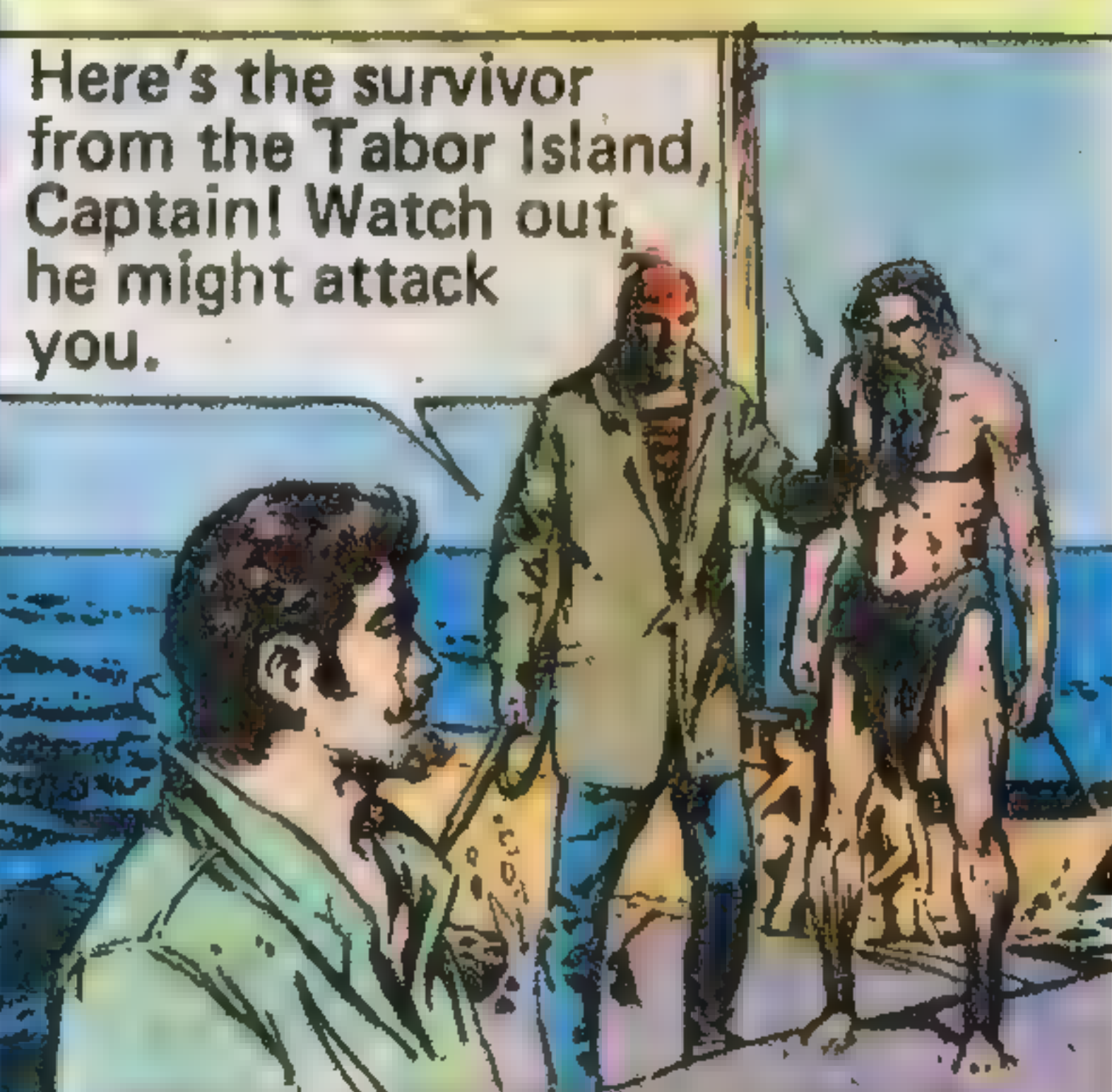
Suddenly. . . .



Look! A big fire! Captain Harding and Neb made it to guide us safely into our cove.

When dawn arrived. . . .

Here's the survivor from the Tabor Island, Captain! Watch out, he might attack you.



He won't if I act friendly and make him feel welcome.

Captain Harding then tried an experiment. . . .

Don't chase him. Let's see if he wants to run away.



He started to, but stopped! I think he trusts us and will stay.

In the following days, the stranger joined them in their work, but kept silent until one day. . . .

Who are you people?



Well, that's the first time you spoke. We are Americans, shipwrecked on this island. And who are you, sir?

The stranger answered bitterly.



Why did you drag me away from my island? I'm not fit to live with honest men like you. I'm a criminal, a murderer, an evil man! You must let me go to live alone.

He'll never come back.



Yes, he will. Wait and see. The poor fellow has to think things over. He has lived a wicked life. But he'll realize we are his friends.

Another amazing machine
was built by the men
under the clever engineer's
directions.



Our windmill
will grind up
flour for us.

Here's our first
flour for baking
bread!

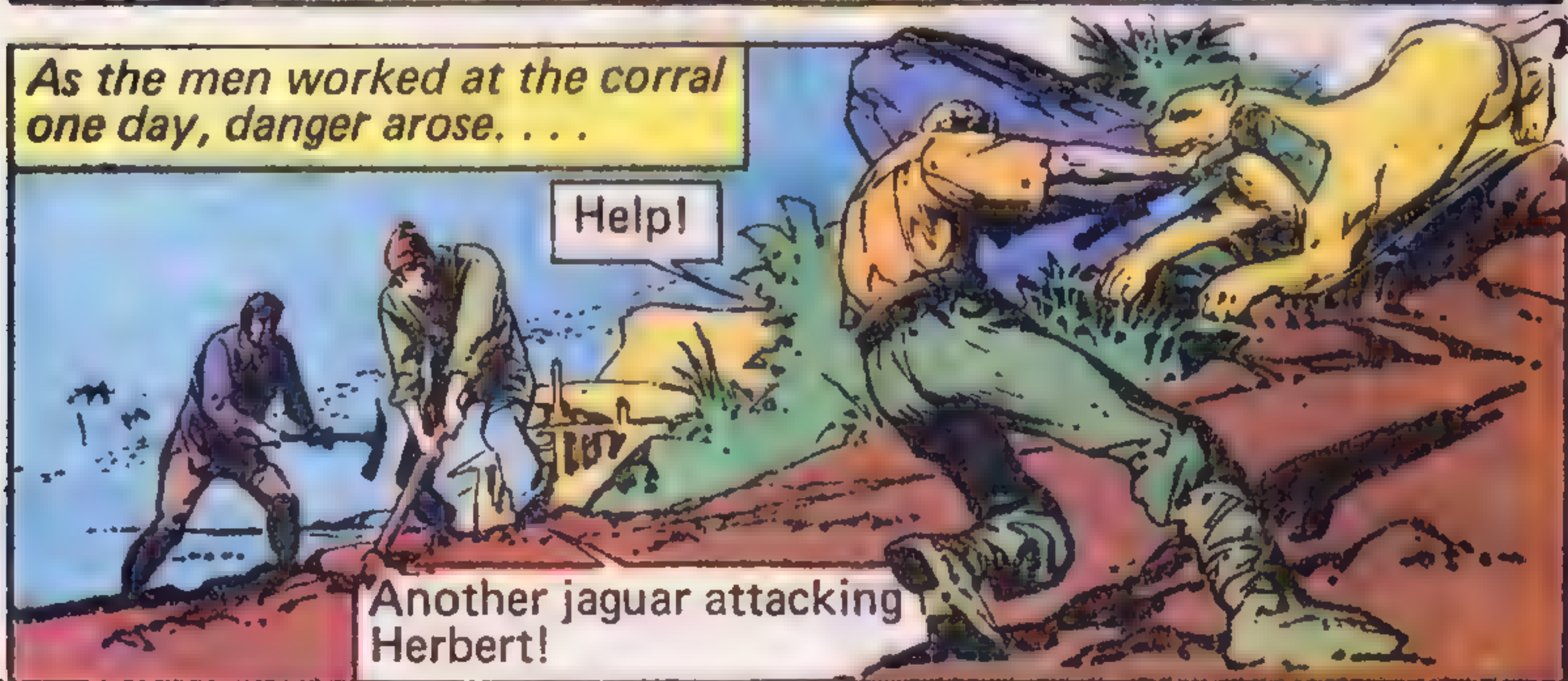


Ah, bread! The
staff of life! I
missed it almost
as much as
smoking my
pipe.



As the men worked at the corral
one day, danger arose. . . .

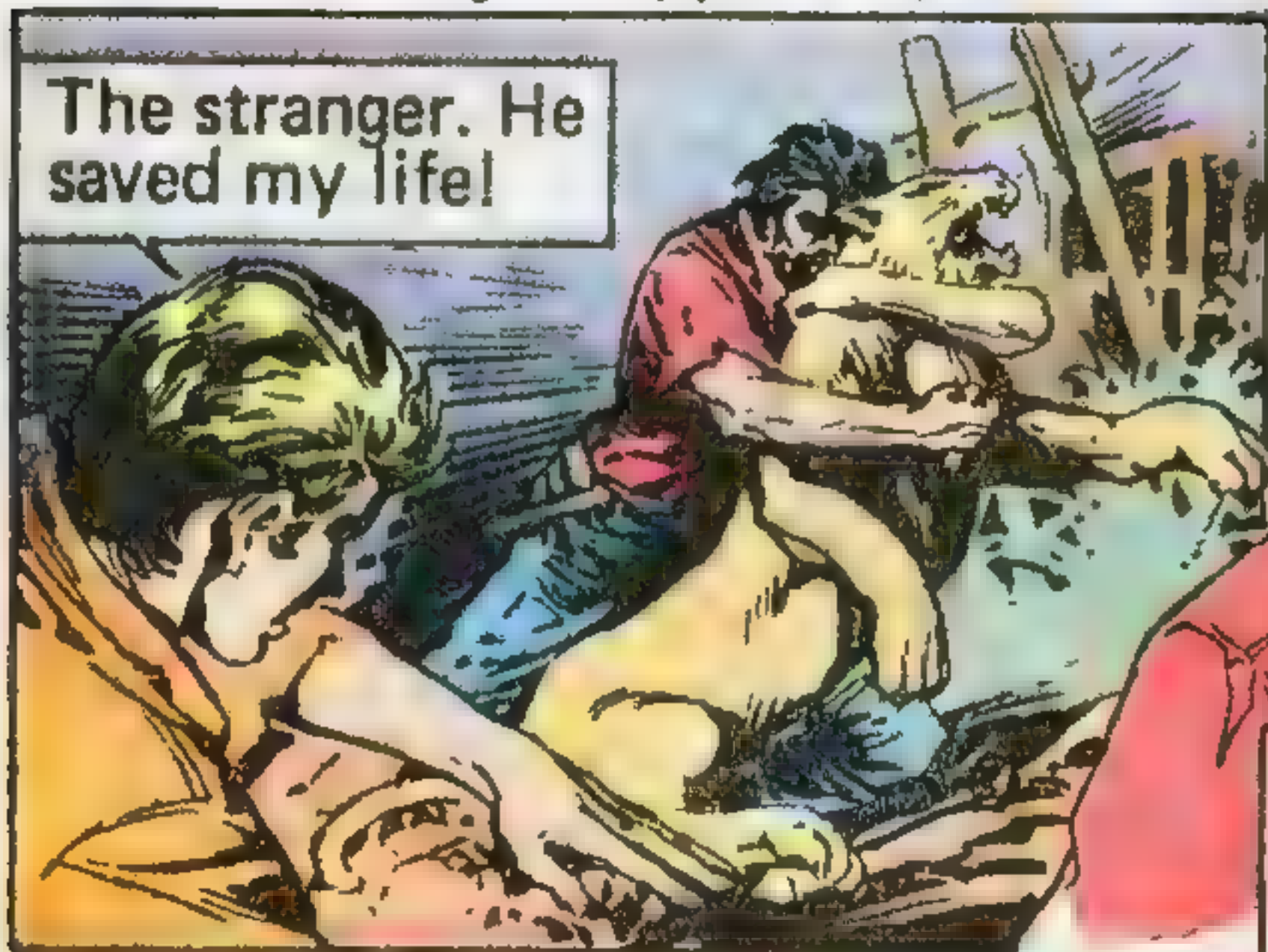
Help!



Another jaguar attacking
Herbert!

But another figure appeared, and

The stranger. He saved my life!



You are wounded. Stay and we'll take care of you.



I'll stay, but not in your home. Let me live alone here at the corral. I'll guard your stock from harm.

Time passed. Then, one night, the stranger came to Granite House.



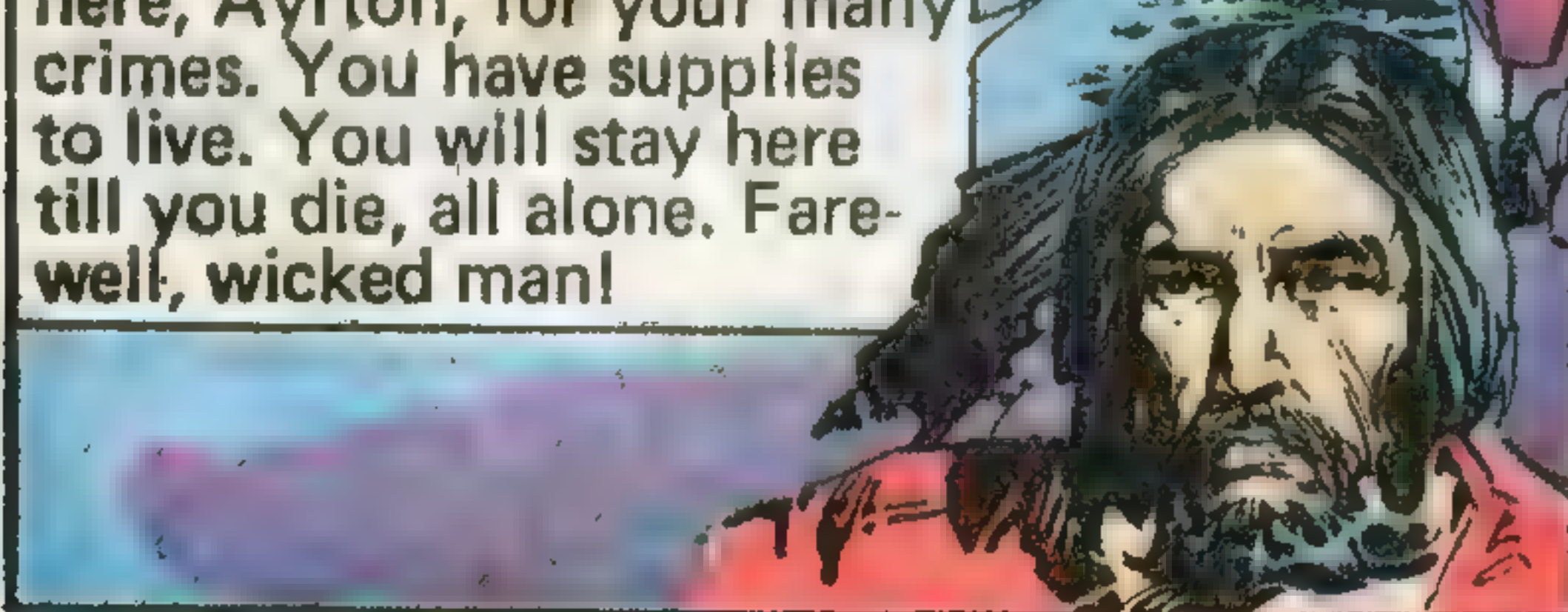
Gentlemen, it is time to tell my story. My name is Ayrton.

Back in 1854, the steam-yacht "Duncan" sailed to Australia with Lord Glenvaran of Scotland. I had been left there by a shipwreck and planned to get hold of his ship, to use it for piracy. . . .



A terrible tale unfolded of killing and piracy on the high sea, all planned by Ayrton, until finally he was caught and left on Tabor Island. . . .

We are marooning you here, Ayrton, for your many crimes. You have supplies to live. You will stay here till you die, all alone. Farewell, wicked man!



That was twelve years ago. I built a hut, but after years of terrible loneliness, I went mad! That's the way you found me.

What you did in the past is done with. We have nothing against you. Live with us, Ayrton.



No, Captain Harding. Not yet. Let me stay alone at the corral for a while.

Harding asked one more question and oddly. . . .

But I never put any message in a bottle!



What? But who did for him? Hmm . . . it's another part of the strange mystery about this island. . . and even Tabor Island!

The captain's next idea really surprised the men.

I made the chemicals to run this battery and produce electricity. Now we can string iron wires to the corral's hut and send messages back and forth with Ayrton.



Our own telegraph system! Wonderful, Captain!

When all was ready for the first test. . . .

A-r-e y-o-u t-h-e-r-e
A-y-r-t-o-n?



Y-e-s C-a-p-t-a-i-n!

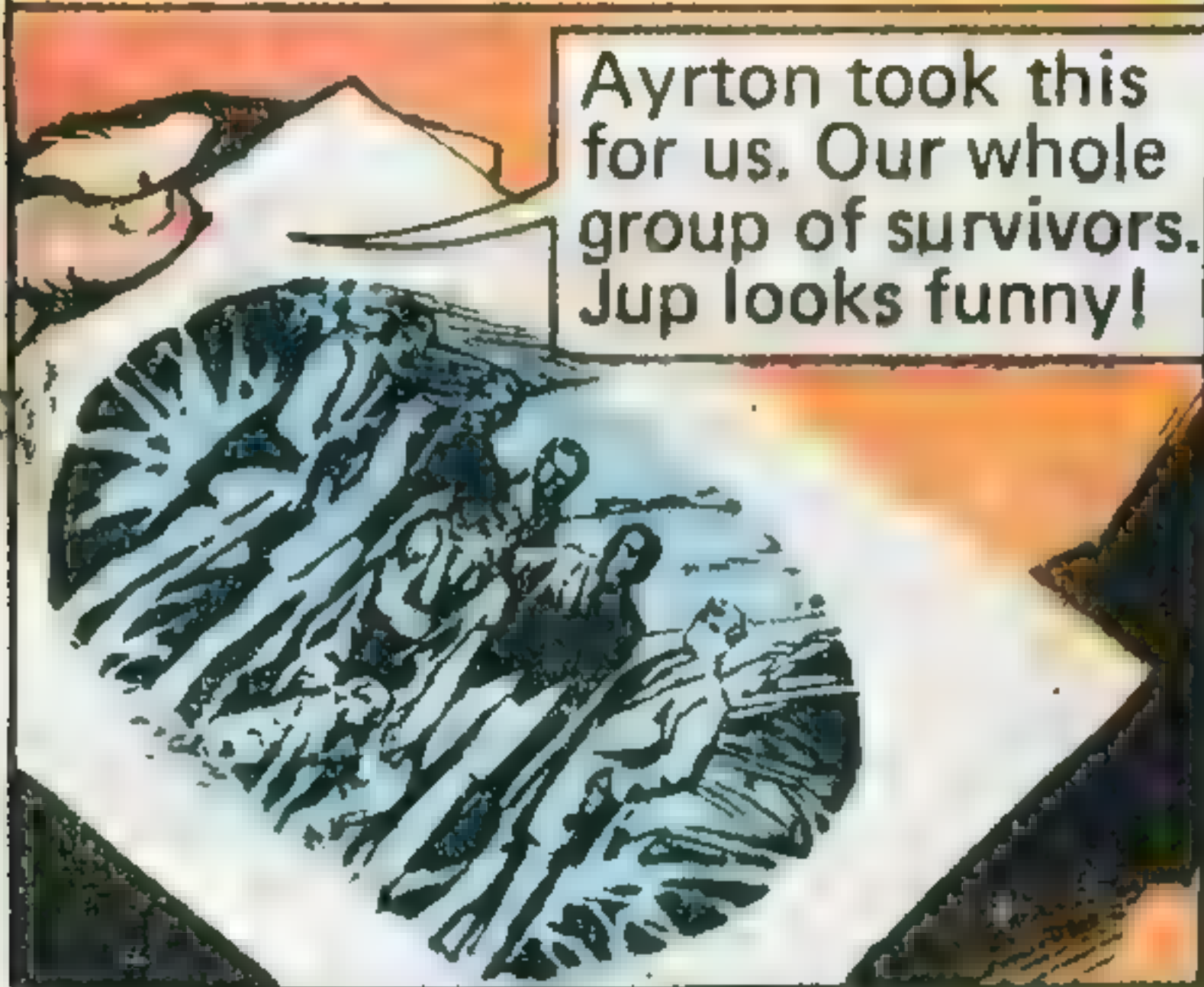
The photography set found in the shipwrecked chest was finally used too.



I'll snap a few views of our island.

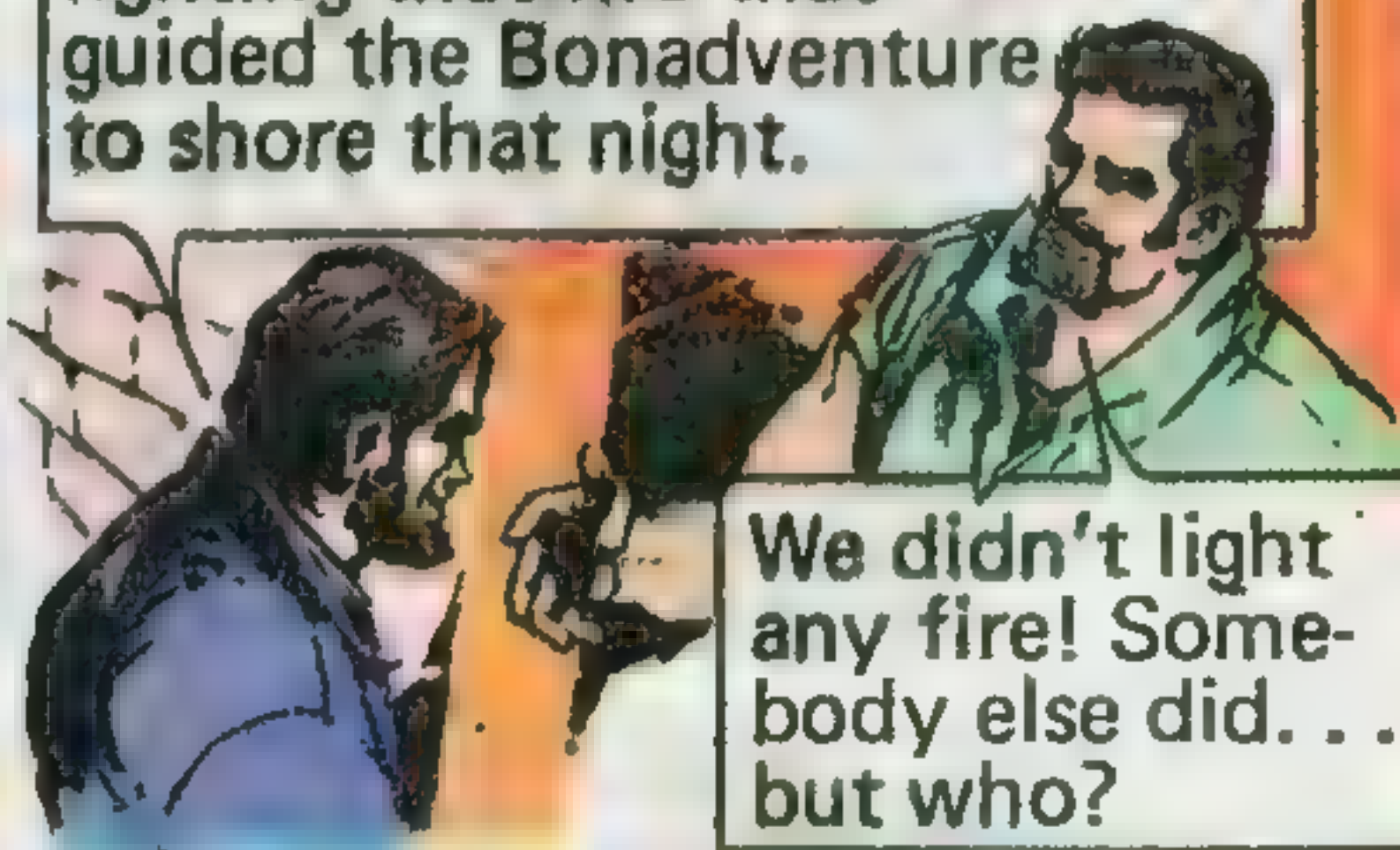
But they all thought the next picture was the best. . . .

Ayrton took this for us. Our whole group of survivors. Jup looks funny!



But the puzzling riddle about the island kept building up. . . .

Why, we've forgotten to thank you and Neb, Captain, for lighting that fire that guided the Bonadventure to shore that night.



We didn't light any fire! Somebody else did. . . but who?

And finally, Harding talked it over with the others.

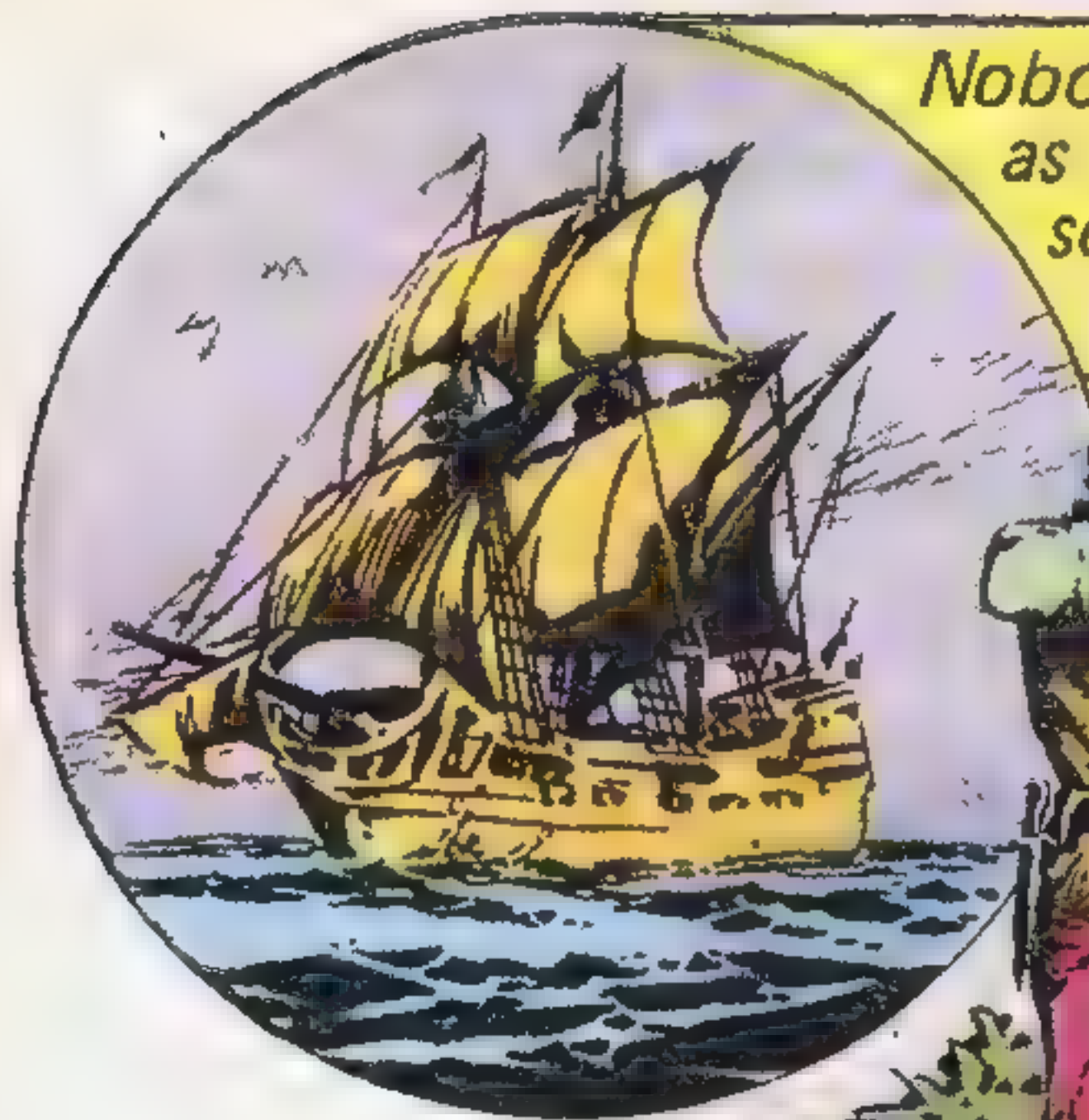


How was I saved from drowning that first week, and placed safely ashore? What flung Top out of the water and killed the dugong?

Where did that "shipwrecked" chest full of goods come from so nicely? Who chased those apes out of Granite House and tossed down our rope ladder? How could we find a message in a bottle from Tabor Island that Ayrton never wrote?



Lastly, who made that fire that guided the Bonadventure to safe harbor? All of these strange events point to some mysterious person who helped us all along! Who is he and where is he?



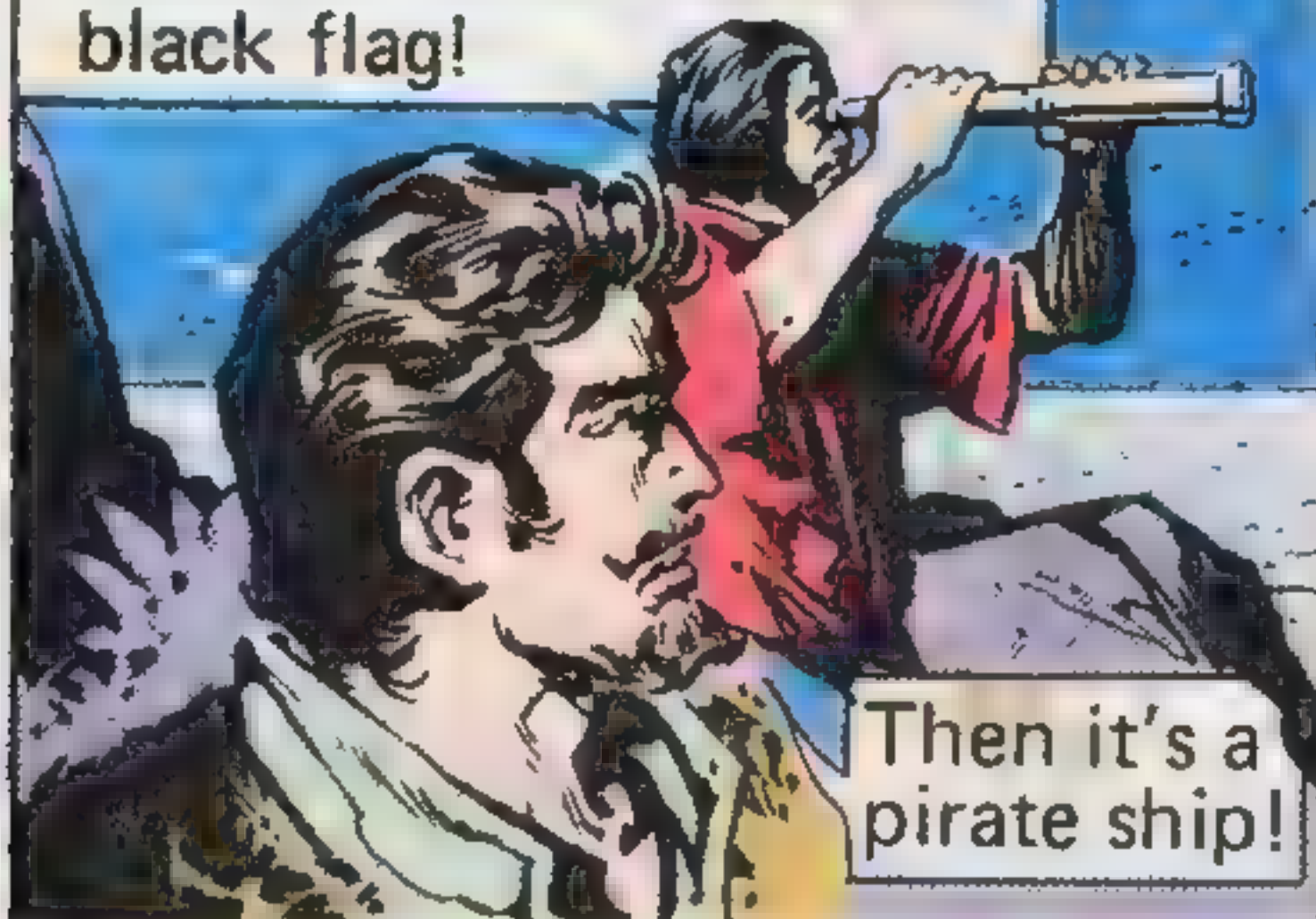
Nobody had the answers. Some days later, as Harding used the chest's telescope to scan the sea. . . .



A sailing ship coming here! Is it the "Duncan?" If they found Ayrton missing from Tabor Island, they would look here.

When Ayrton was called. . . .

No, Captain. It isn't the Duncan. And it carries a black flag!



Then it's a pirate ship!

And before long. . . .



They fired a cannonball at us. They must have seen us with their telescope.

Night is coming. I'll swim out to the ship and see how many pirates are aboard.



Later. . .



Four cannons and fifty men, sir!

Six of us against fifty. We'll have to fight for our lives against so many.

Swiftly, Captain Harding formed a plan for his men.



Spilett and Neb, you guard the Mercy River. Ayrton and Pencroft will guard the small island nearest the ship. Herbert and I will be in hiding among the rocks here. By morning they'll attack.

On the tiny island, Ayrton and Pencroft saw action first.



Ah, we got two of the devils.

Seven pirates rowing to shore. Fire!

A cannonball boomed.



Only knocked chips off this rock. We're safe.

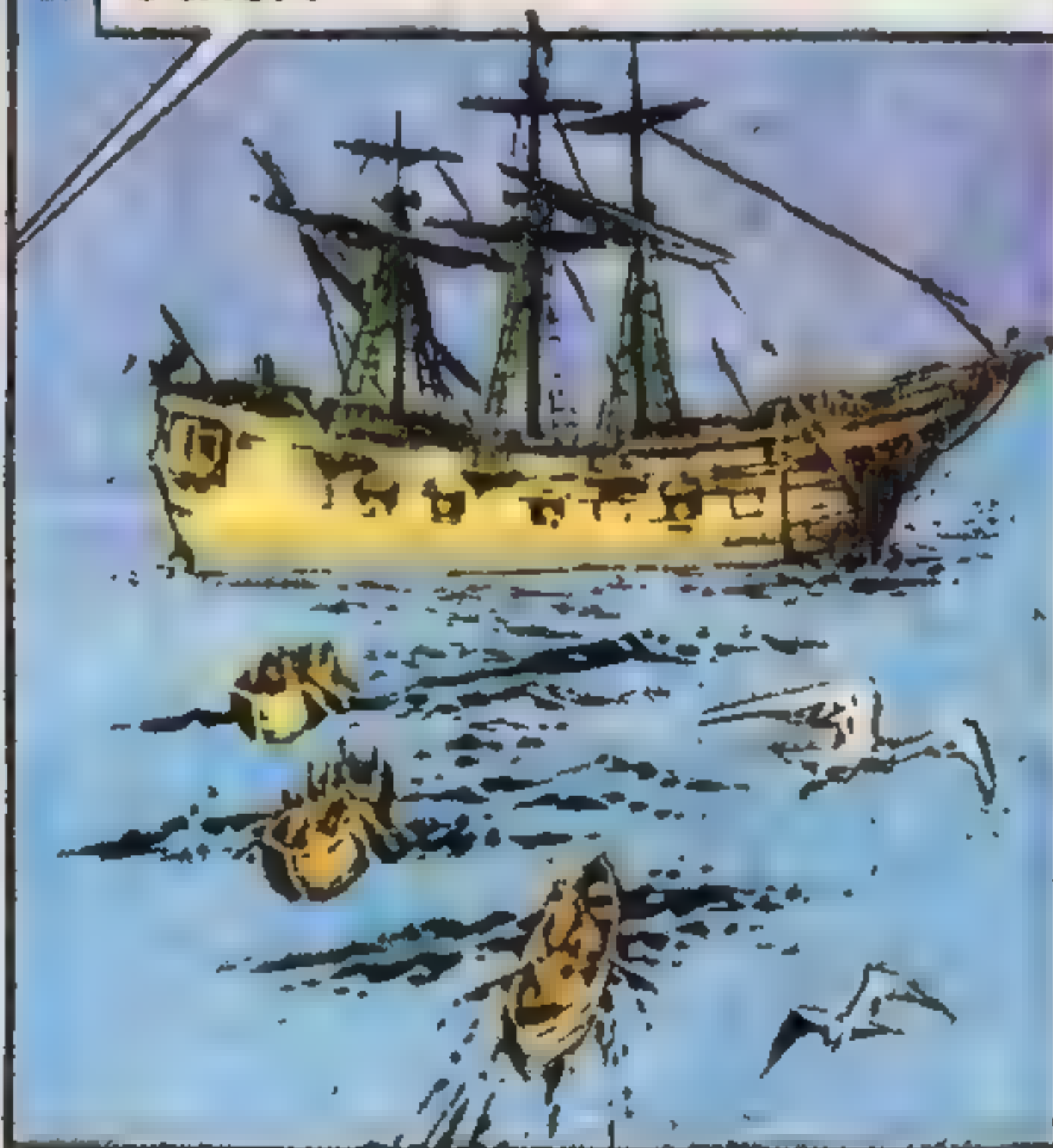
The pirates next tried to row up the Mercy River, and again. . . .



Aim, good, Neb. . .one pirate!

Two pirates, Mr. Spillet! That'll stop them.

That boat went back to the pirate ship. But two more boats are leaving. Twelve pirates in one, eight in the other!



The boat with eight men again tried to enter the Mercy River, but. . . .



Got two more men. And the boat crashed into rocks.



The other six pirates are walking up the river. Don't waste a shot, Neb. The range is too long. We can hunt them down later.

Meanwhile, as the other boat reached the island, and the pirates jumped ashore. . . .

Ready, Aryton?
Fire!

Yipes! Have they got
an army here? Back to
the ship. . .hurry!

*But now, the angry pirate
captain tried a new trick.*



Look! They raised the anchor.
The ship is drifting close to
us. They're going to bomb us
with their cannon!

*The men ran for the
shelter of Granite House,
but a moment later. . . .*



Good heavens! A
lucky hit smashed
our door down.
Now the pirates
can come up here
and trap us!

*A strange miracle
suddenly took place.*

Ahh! We're
all done for!

I can't believe my eyes! A
powerful water-spout lifted
the ship up into the air
like a toy! It's splitting
apart!



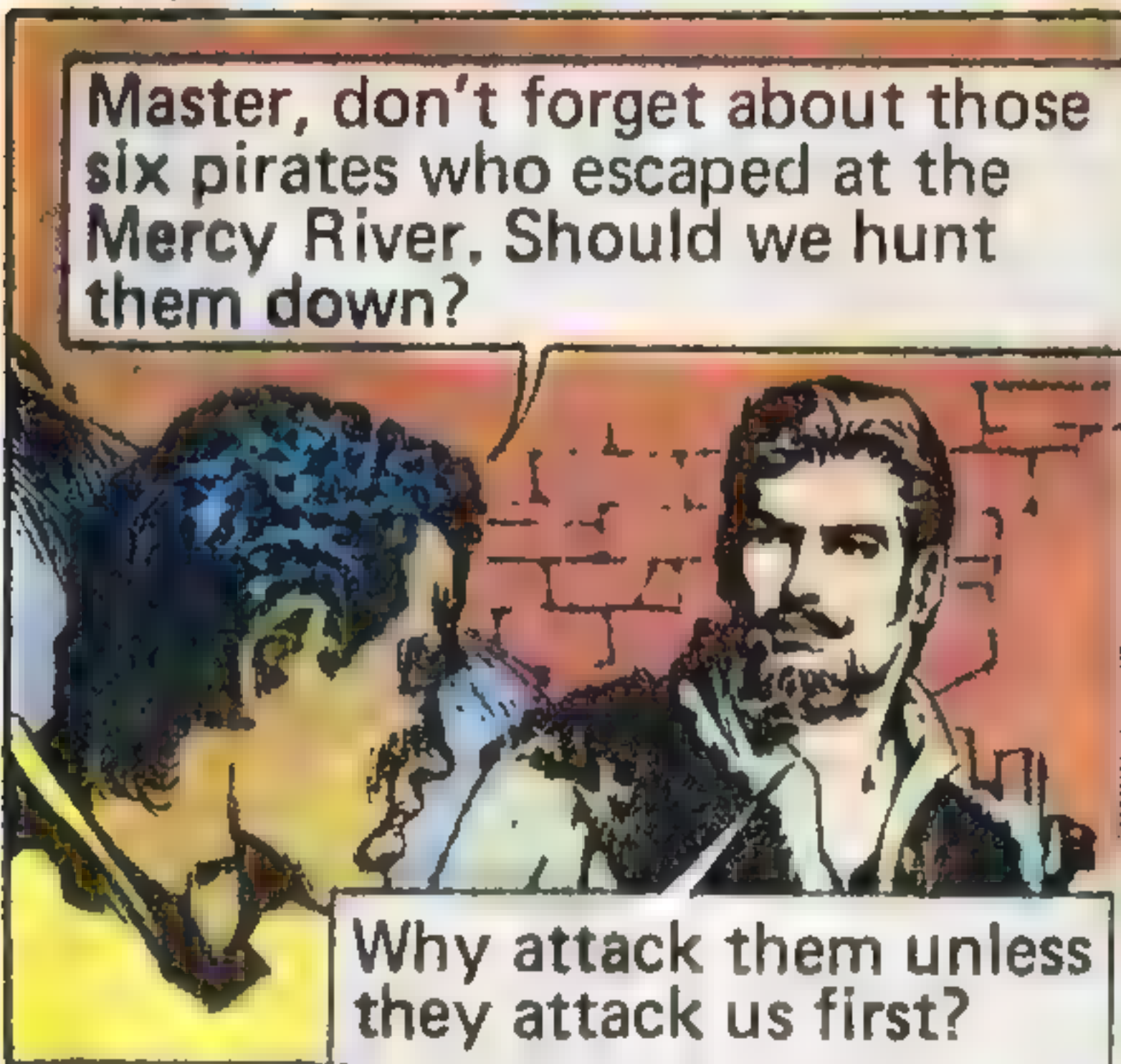
*Thankful for being saved,
the men were soon at work. . . .*



We can gather many useful things from the wrecked ship.

We'll drag the mast and sails to shore. Good cloth.

One problem was left. . . .



Master, don't forget about those six pirates who escaped at the Mercy River. Should we hunt them down?

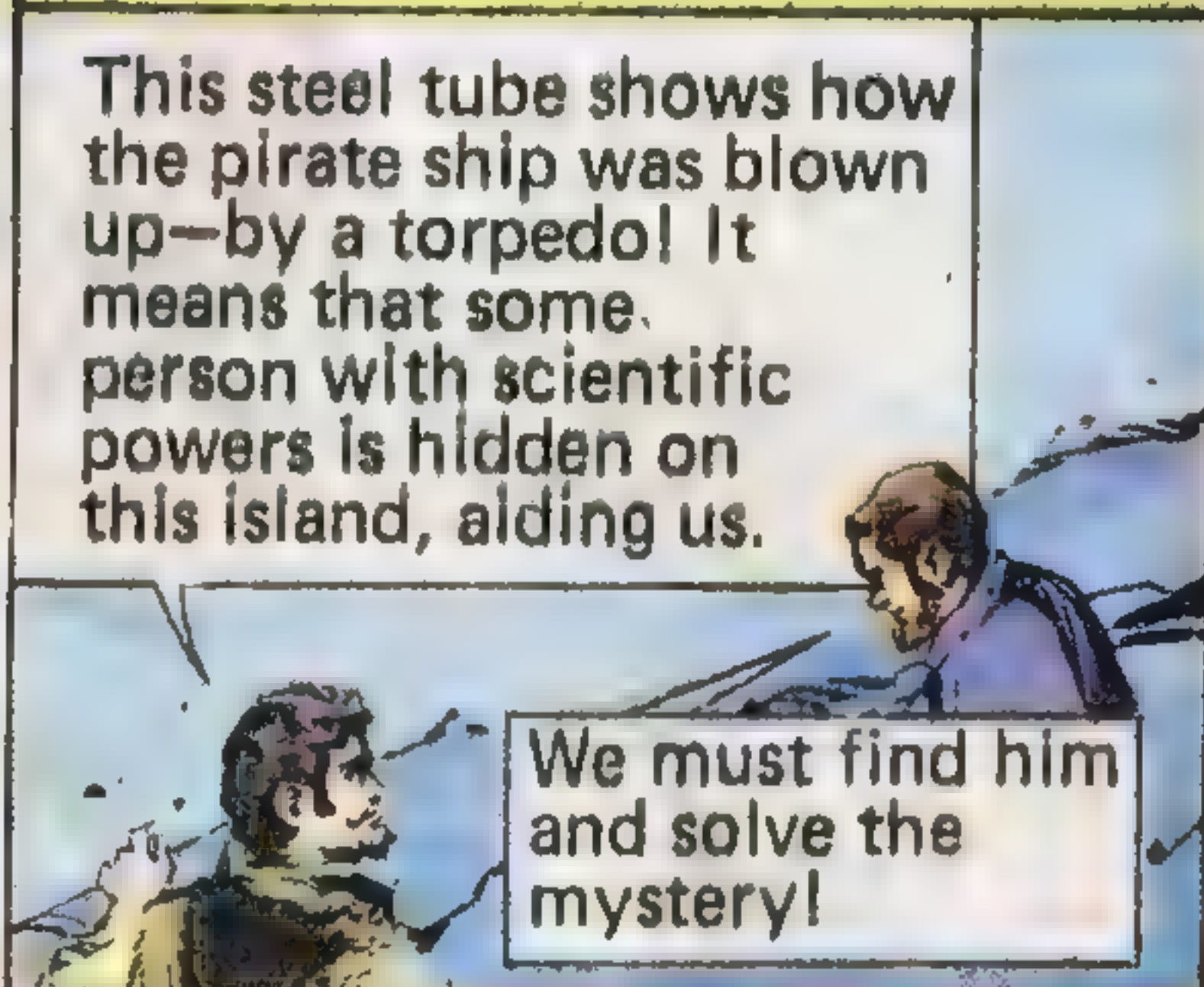
Why attack them unless they attack us first?



Here's the answer, Captain. Somebody pulled up this post and broke the wires.

It must be those pirates! Watch for them.

Captain Harding made an exciting find.



This steel tube shows how the pirate ship was blown up—by a torpedo! It means that some person with scientific powers is hidden on this island, aiding us.

We must find him and solve the mystery!

In November, when the daily telegraph message to the corral was not answered for the first time. . . .



Come on, to the corral. Why didn't Ayrton answer?

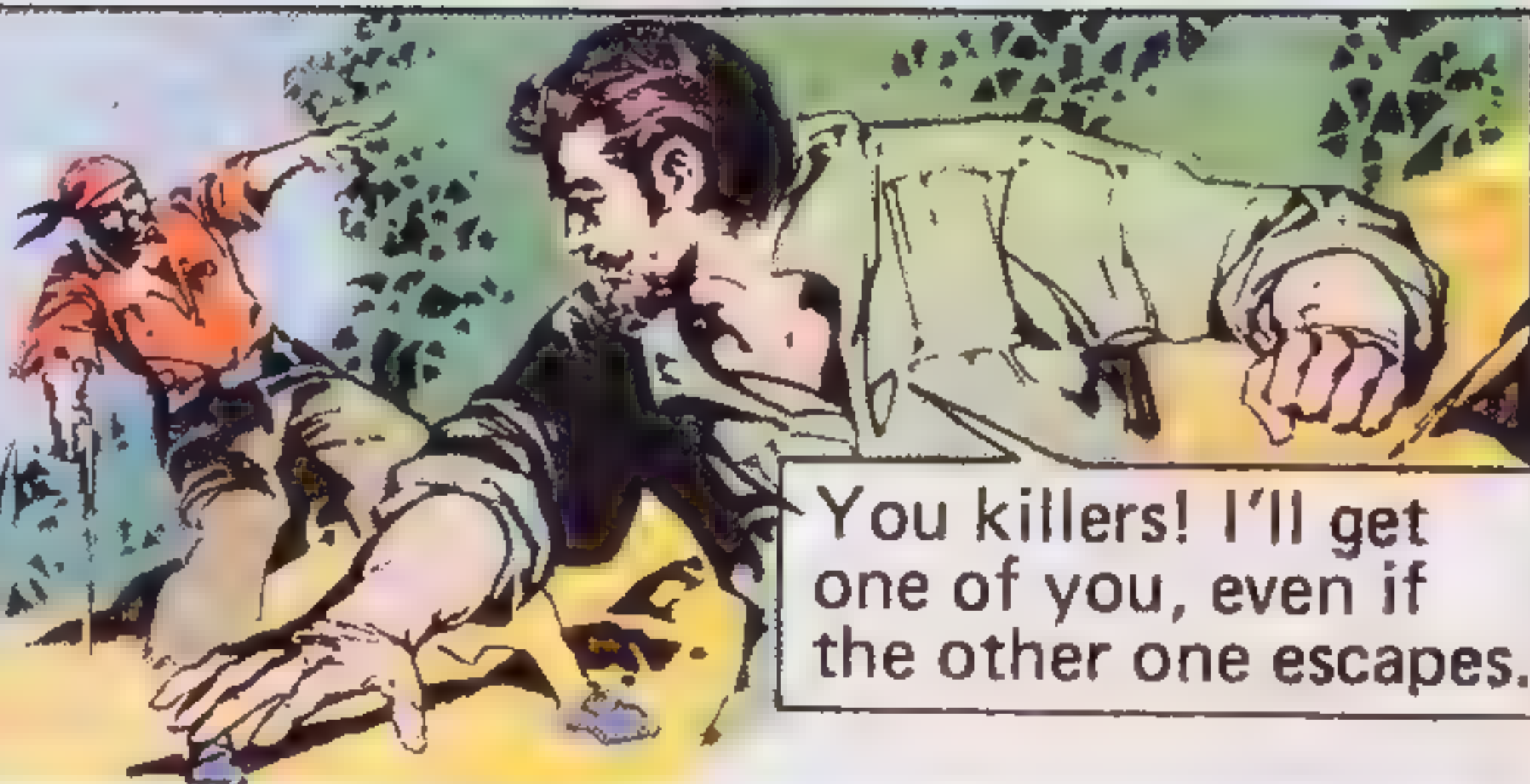
Suddenly, at the corral gate, a shot came from the pirates' hiding spot. . . .



Ohh!

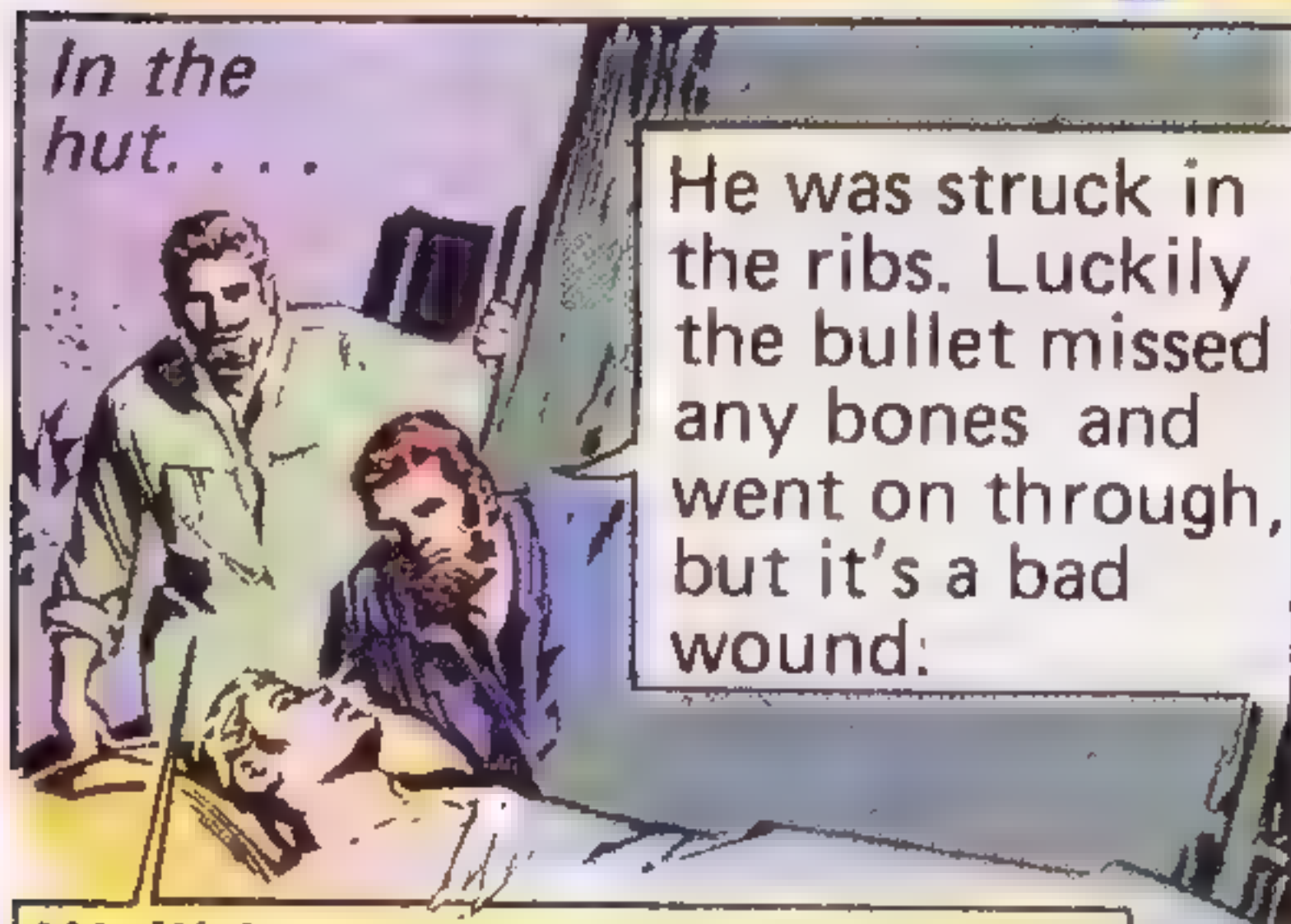
Herbert was shot! Get him inside the hut. . . hurry!

But Captain Harding first rushed to where the shot came from, and. . .



You killers! I'll get one of you, even if the other one escapes.

In the hut. . .

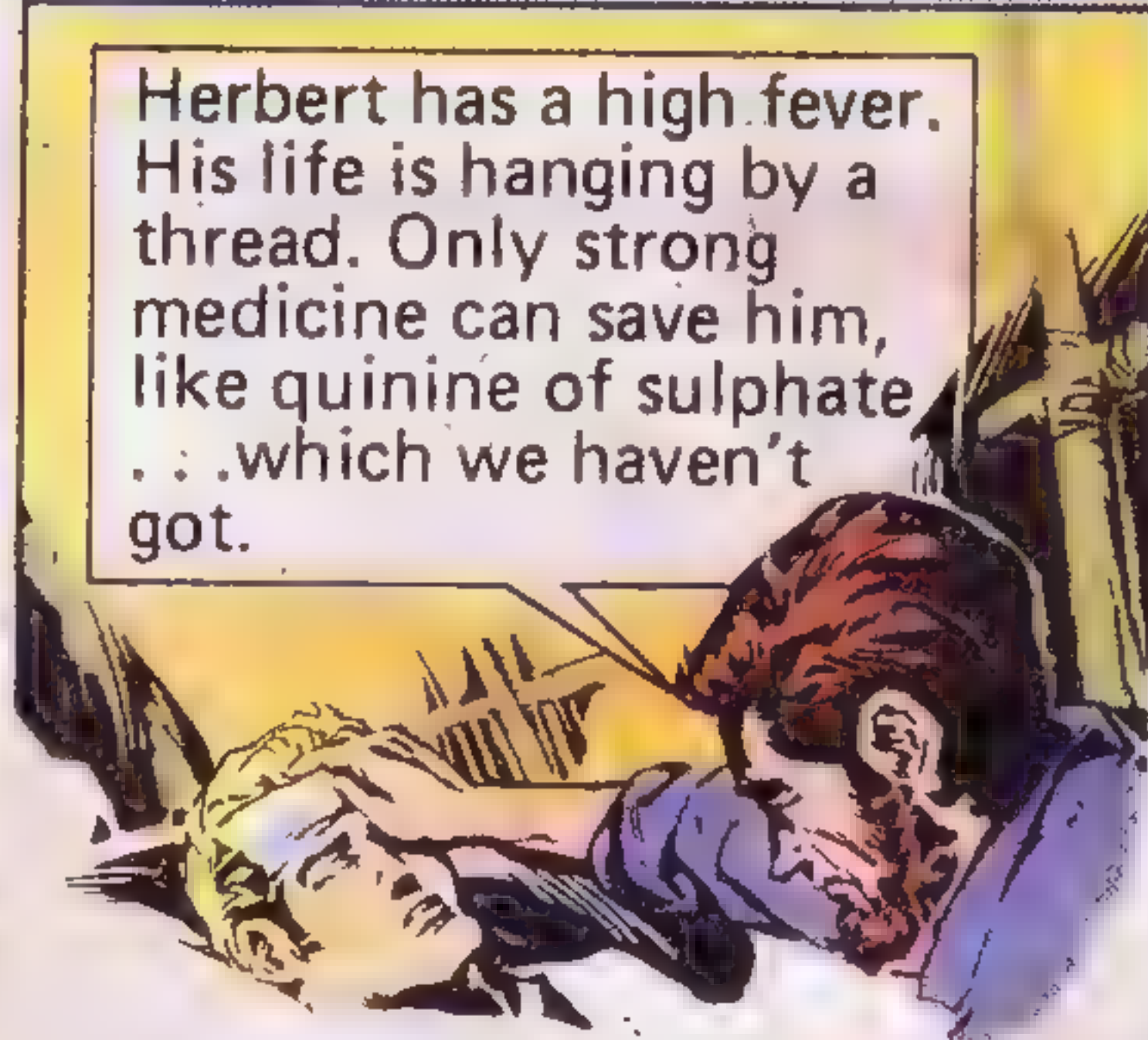


He was struck in the ribs. Luckily the bullet missed any bones and went on through, but it's a bad wound.

We'll have to stay here and nurse him. I hope we can save his life. As for Ayrton, the pirates must have killed him. Poor fellow!

After a day and a night. . .

Herbert has a high fever. His life is hanging by a thread. Only strong medicine can save him, like quinine of sulphate . . . which we haven't got.



But the next morning, lying on the table. . .



Great heavens! The medicine we need left here by our unknown friend! This will stop poor Herbert's fever!

Meanwhile, Jup the orangutan arrived from Granite House.

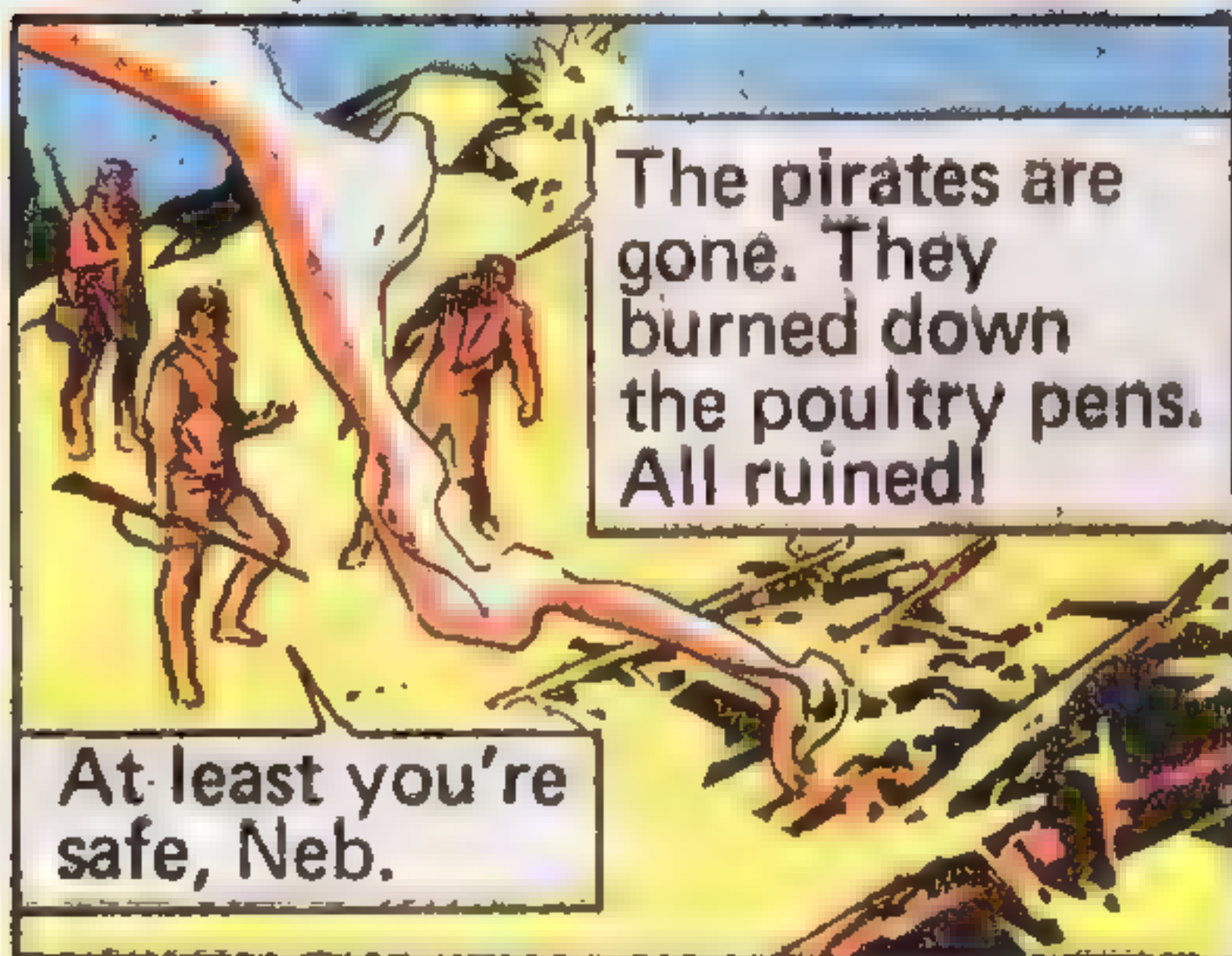


Neb must have sent him. A message is tied around his neck in a bag.

FRIDAY
6:00 A.M.
OUR PLATEAU
INVADED BY
PIRATES...
NEB

Those black-hearted men can wreck things here. Herbert is well enough now to travel. Let's go, men!

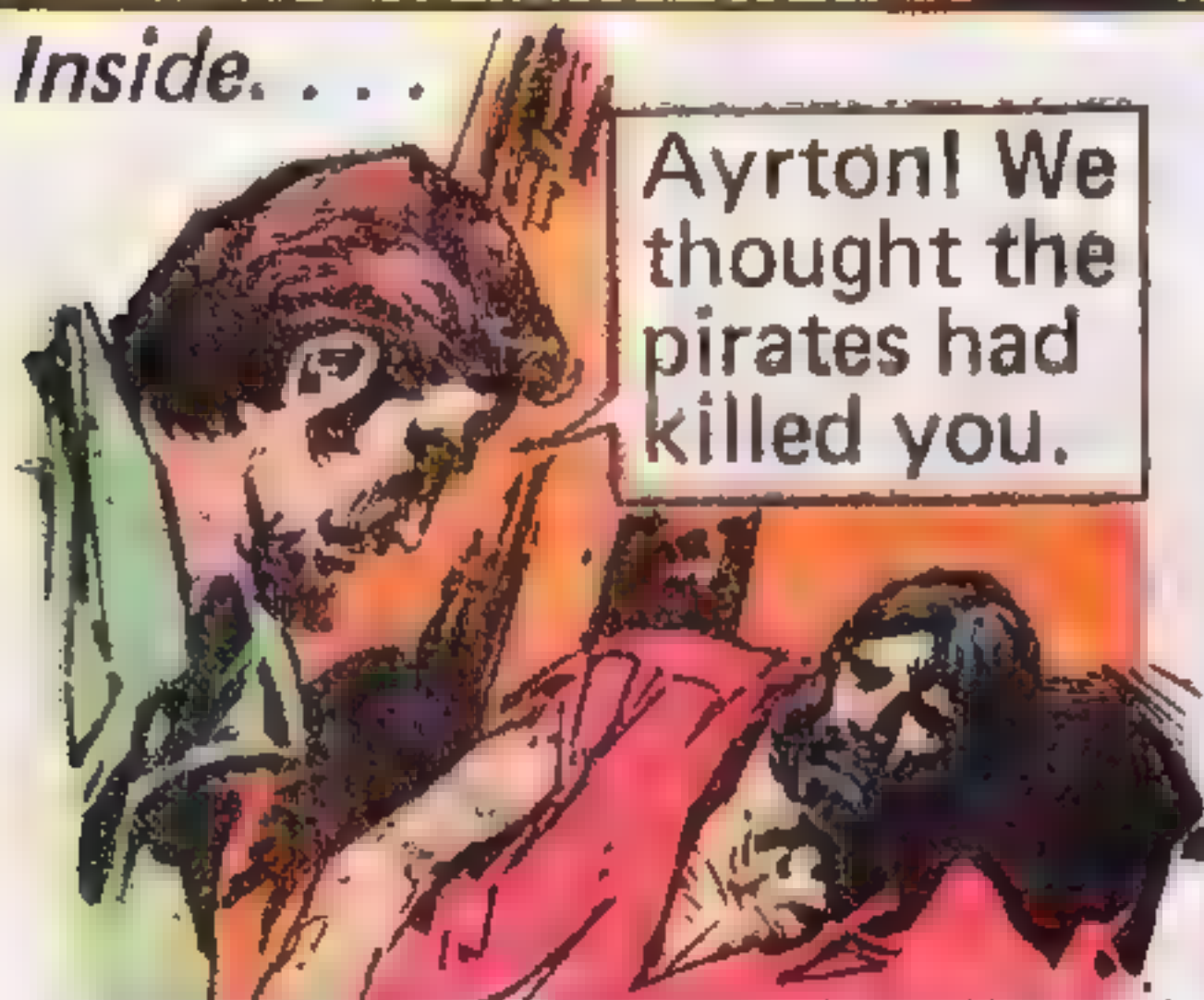
But they were too late.



A difficult hunt was carried on for the following weeks, without success.

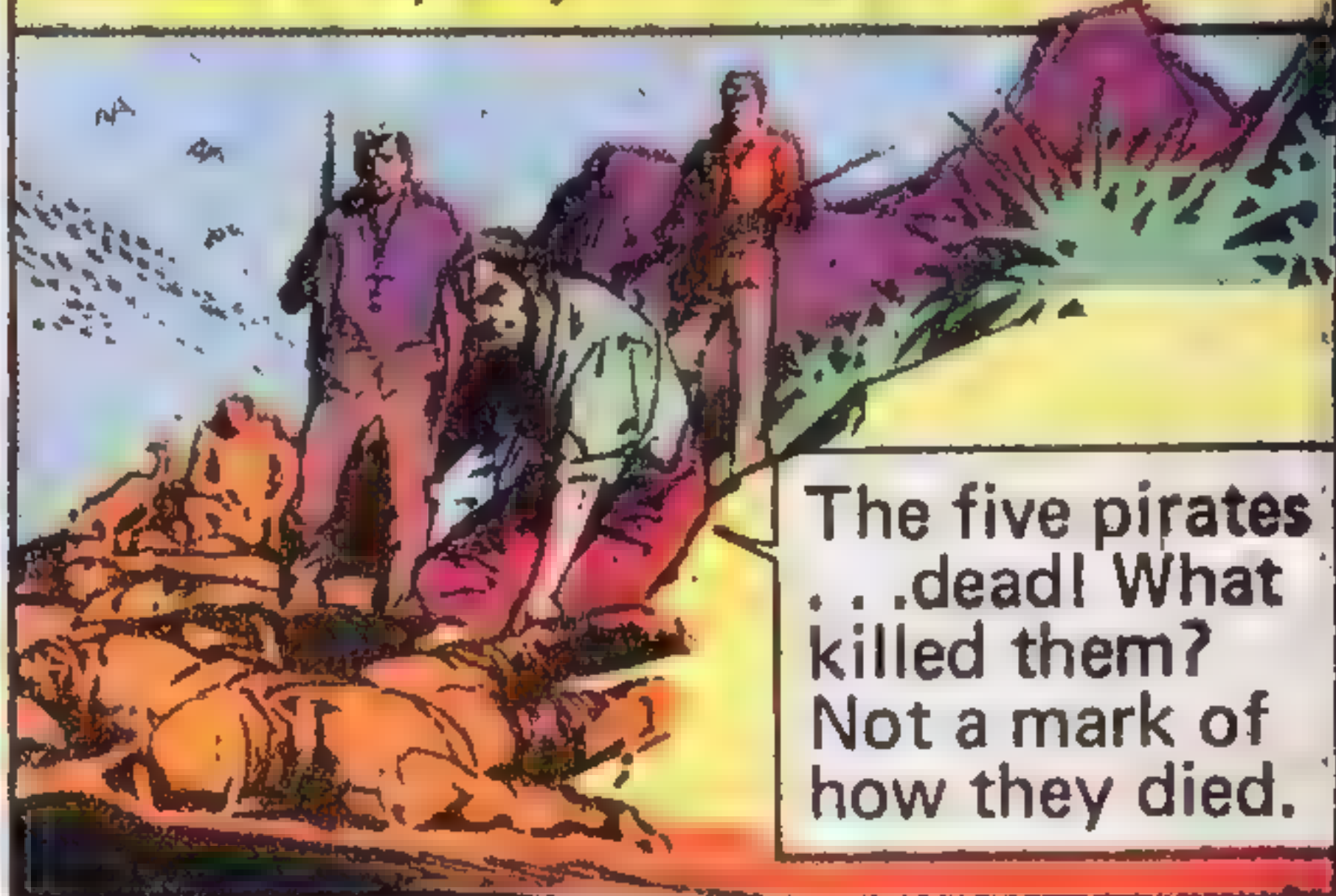


Inside. . . .

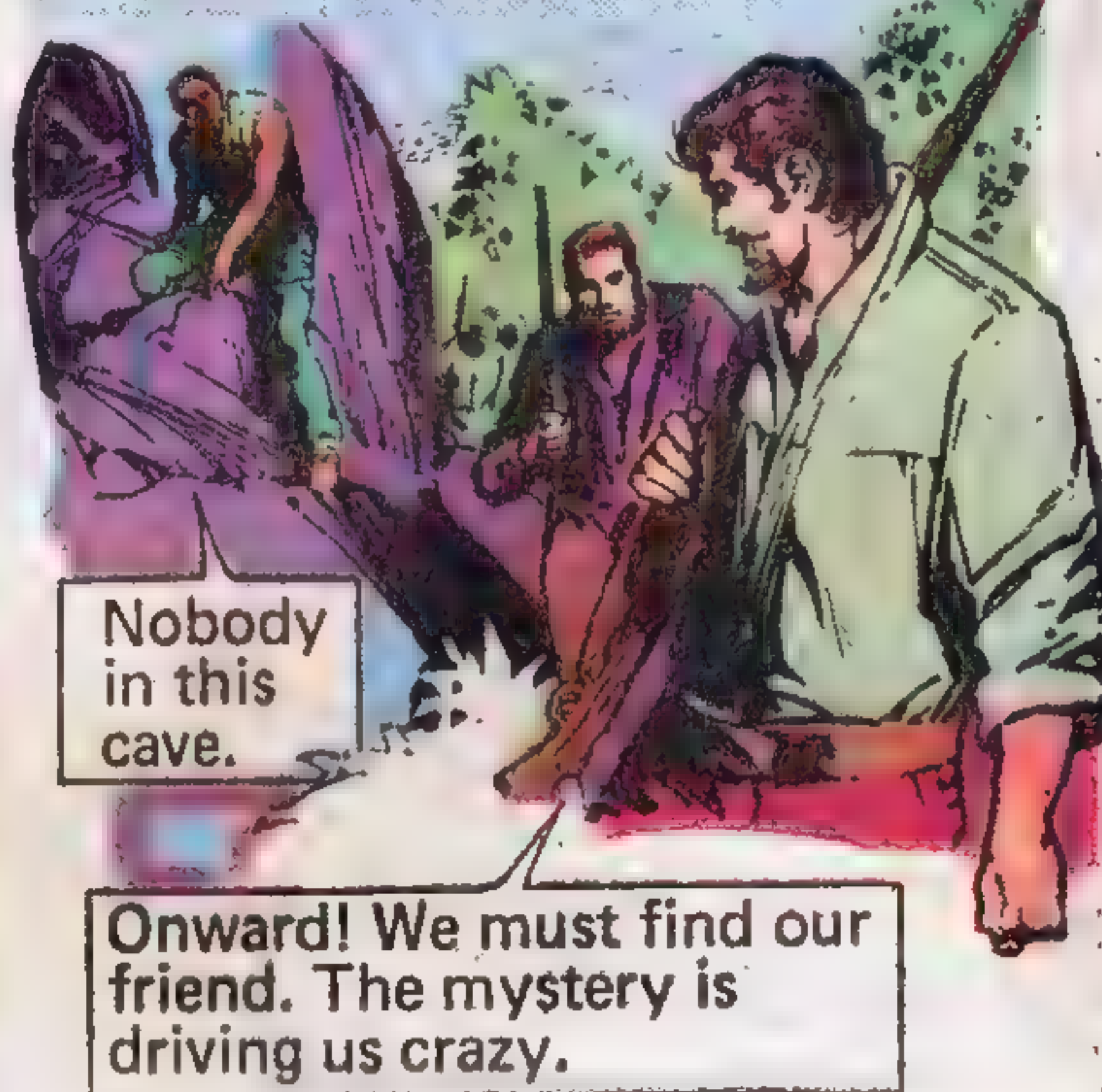


I escaped from them. But they will kill you all unless you hunt them down.

Soon after, Top came barking and led the party to where. . . .



They began a long hunt all over the island. . . .



But they had no luck and returned to Granite House, where they had a party on March 25, 1868. . . .

To the third anniversary of our landing on Lincoln Island!

This thought made Captain Harding think hard about escaping from their island prison. . . .

We need a bigger ship than the Bonadventure to cross the ocean and reach America. How long to build a ship of 250-300 tons, Pencroft?

Hard to believe we've been marooned here for three years.

Oh, I'd say about seven or eight months, Captain. . . if we work real hard.

By May 25. . . .

Months later on September 7, something worried Captain Harding.

The keel and outer hull are almost done. We'll keep on working long hours.

Smoke coming out of the volcano at the top of Mount Franklin! Maybe that dead volcano is coming to life after centuries. Bad, bad!

One evening in October. . .



The bell signal for a telegraph message coming in! But Ayrton is here with us. Nobody is at the corral!

Moments later. . .

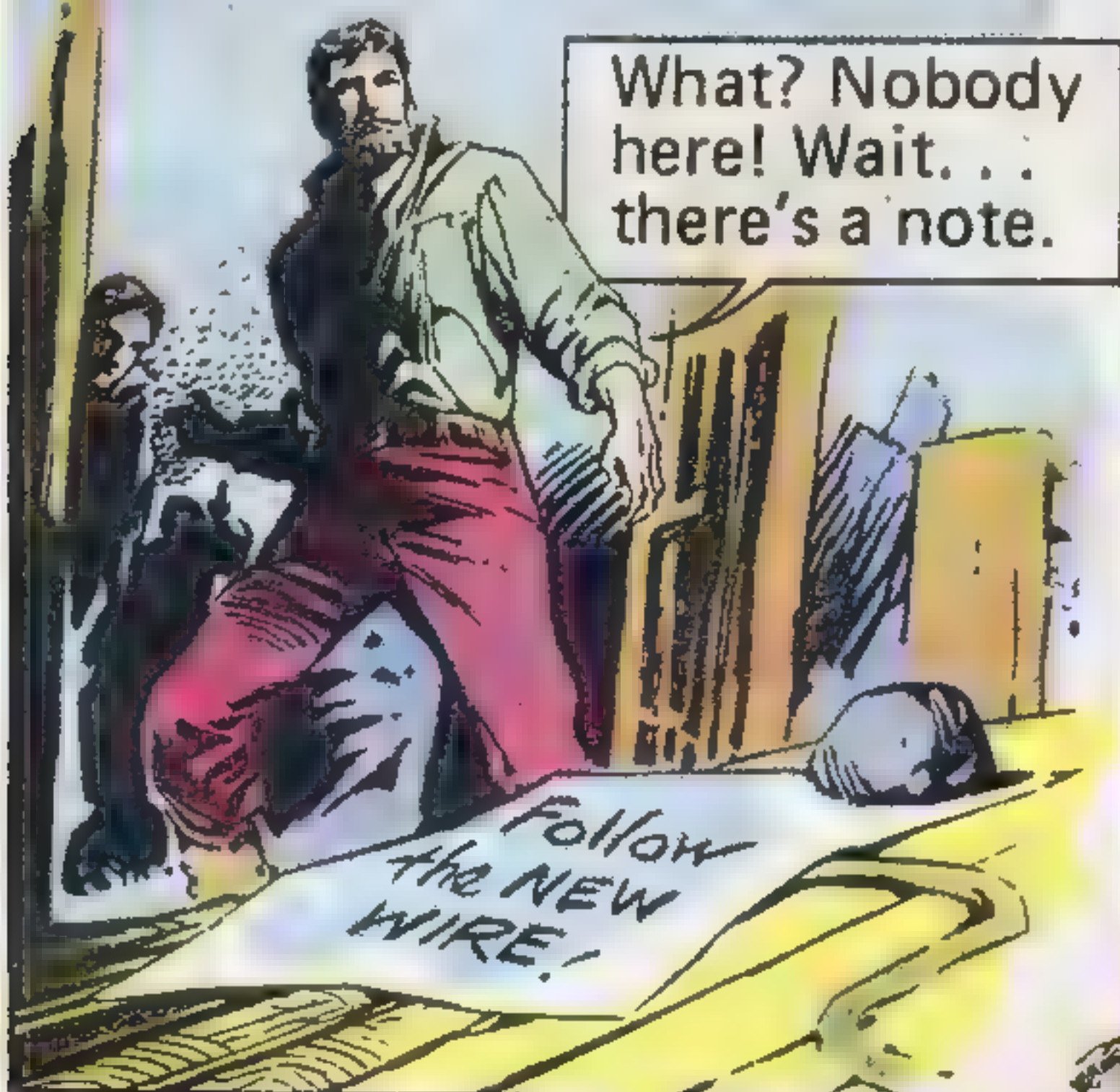
C-o-m-e t-o
t-h-e c-o-r-r-a-l



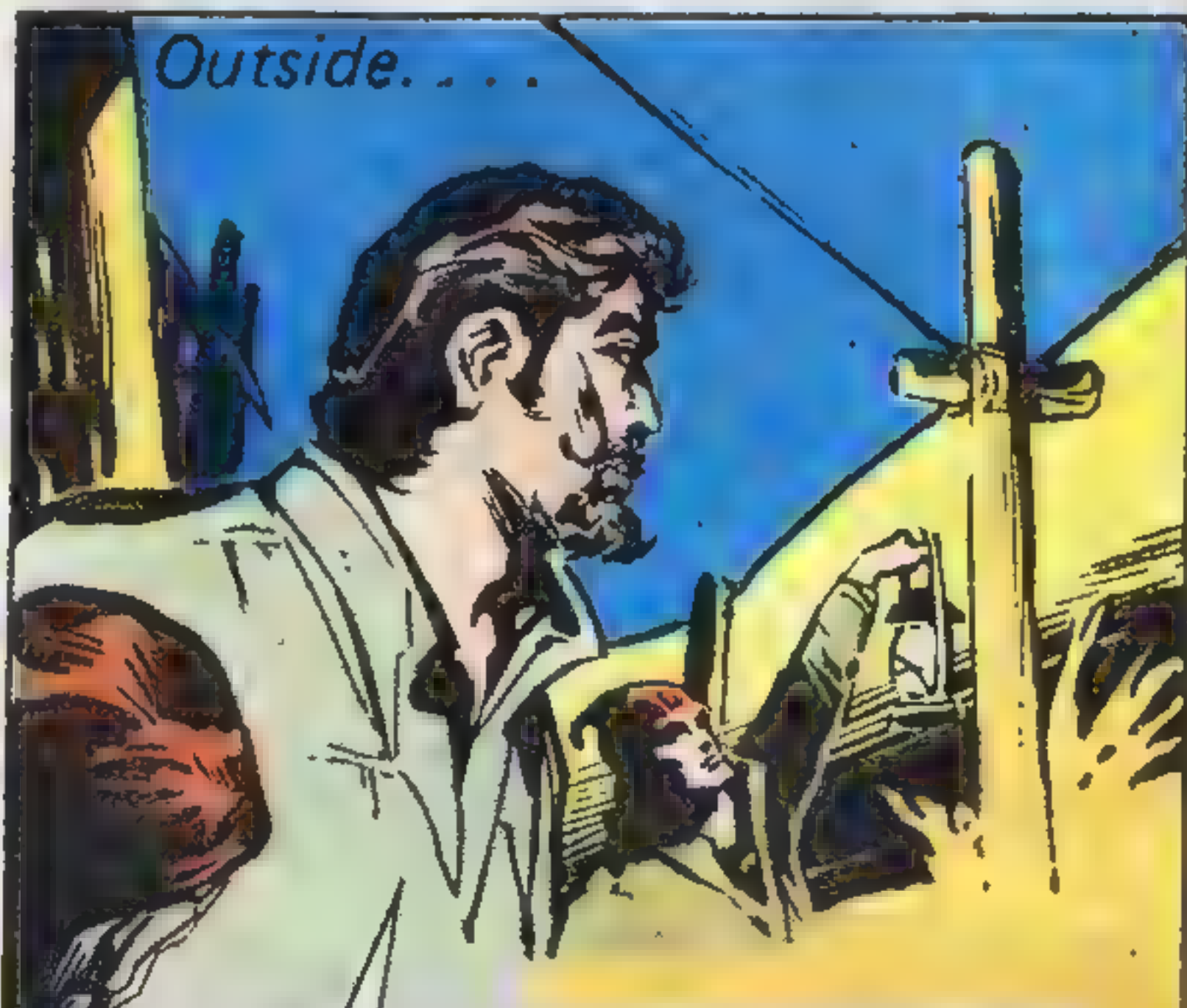
At last! It must be our unknown friend, who is going to show himself.

As they happily rushed to the corral's guard hut. . .

What? Nobody here! Wait. . . there's a note.

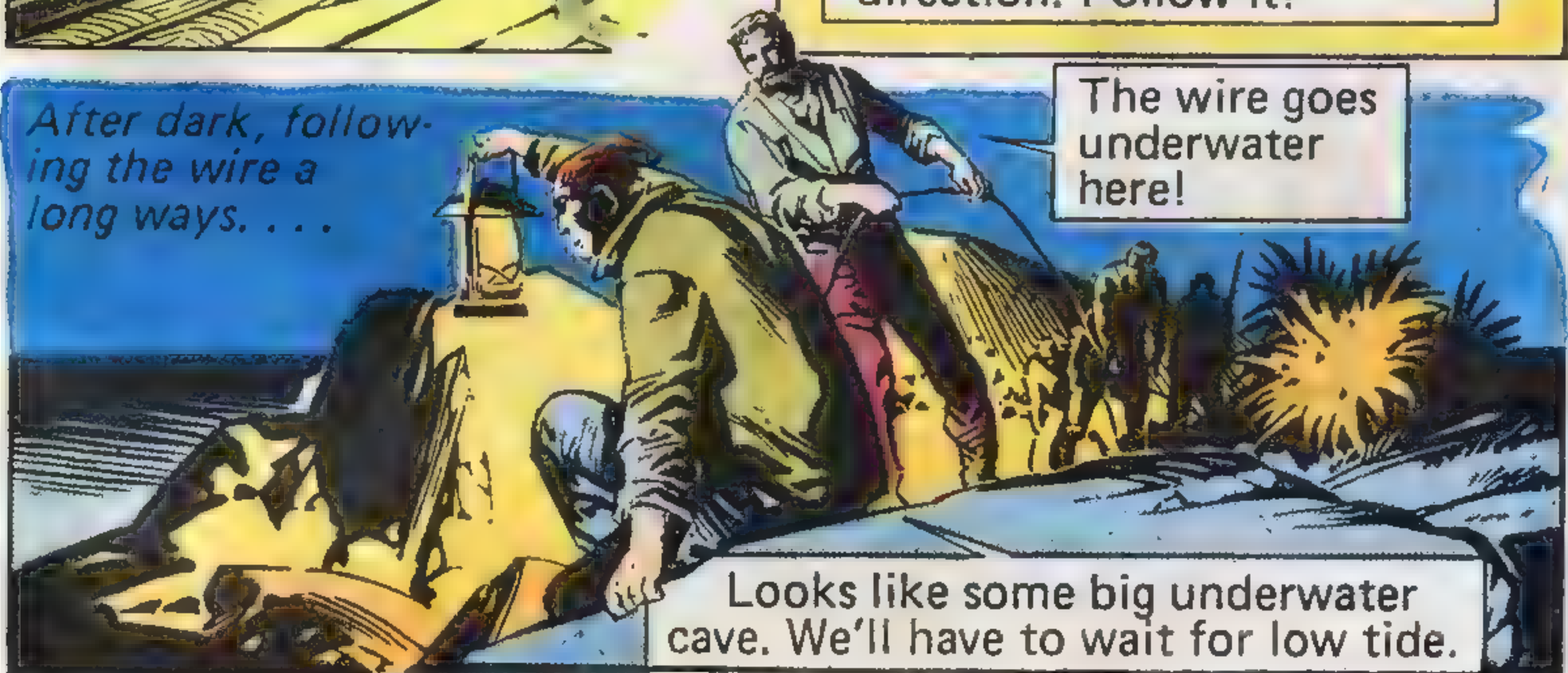


Outside. . .



Ah, a new wire was attached here, leading in another direction. Follow it!

After dark, following the wire a long ways. . .

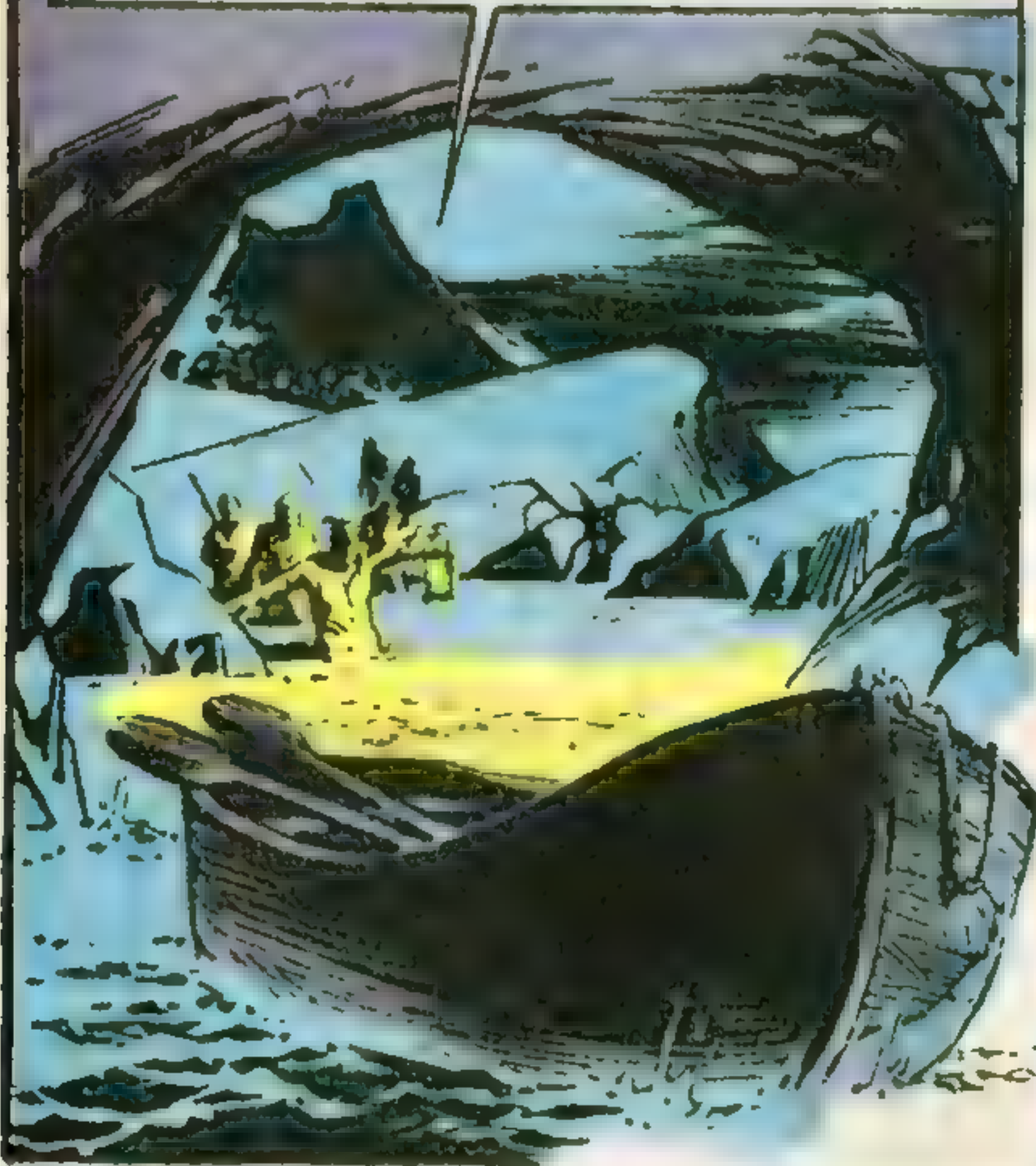


The wire goes underwater here!

Looks like some big underwater cave. We'll have to wait for low tide.

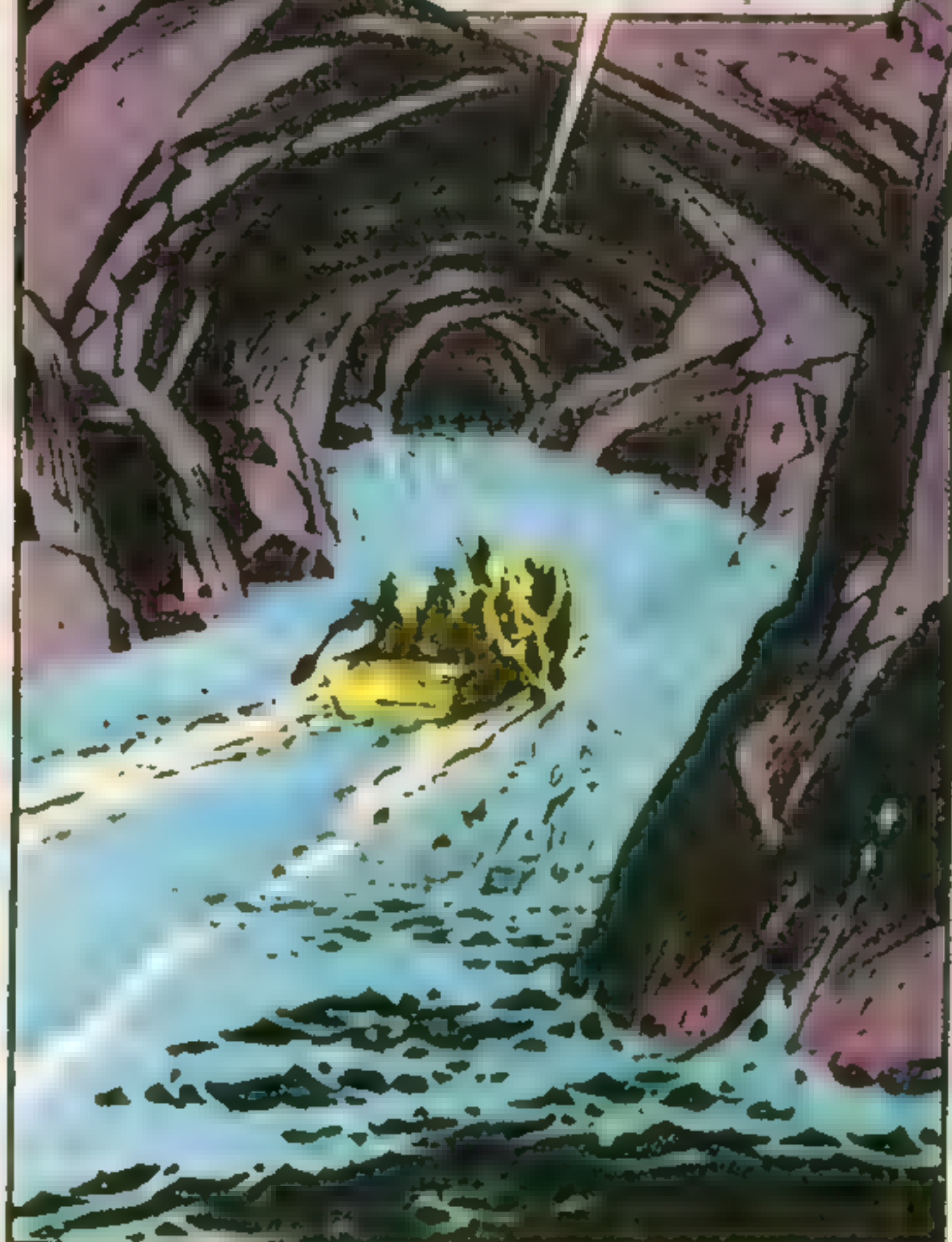
When low tide came. . . .

If we keep walking into that cave,
it'll be over our heads. . .but look!
A rowboat waiting here for us.



*They entered a strange
underwater cave. . . .*

What is at the end of
this big long
tunnel?

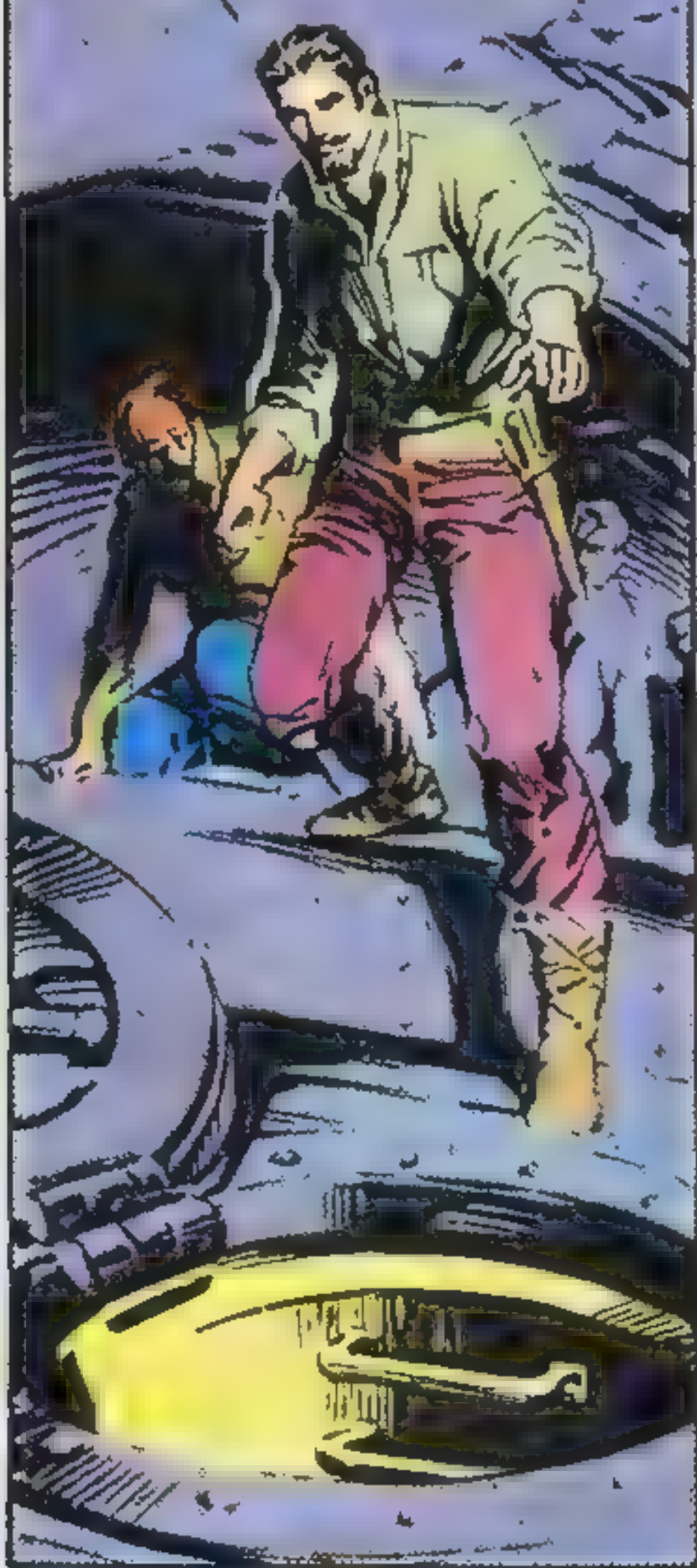


*An amazing sight
lay there. . . .*

Good heavens! A giant
submarine vessel. And
I know its name—the
Nautilus!



The hatchway is open, inviting us in. Come on.

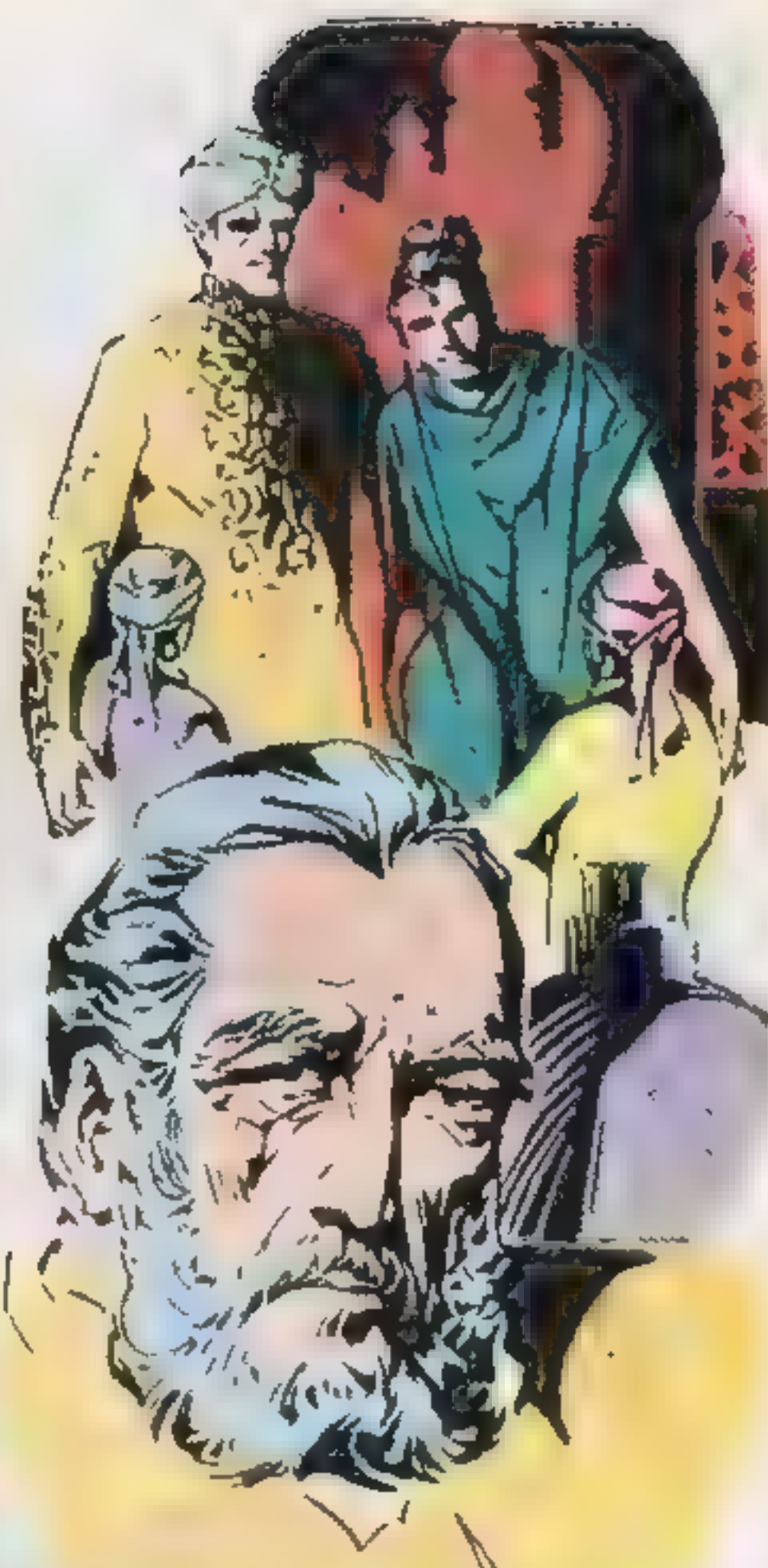


In a room below. . . .

Greetings, Captain Nemo! I know all about you from a book titled *20,000 Leagues Under the Sea*.



But that book did not tell who I really was. I will now tell you the whole story.



As a young man I was Prince Dakkar of India. I was happy with my beautiful wife and two children, until. . . .

. . . .my people rose up against our hated masters. Bloody battles followed and we fought bravely. But we lost against a stronger enemy.



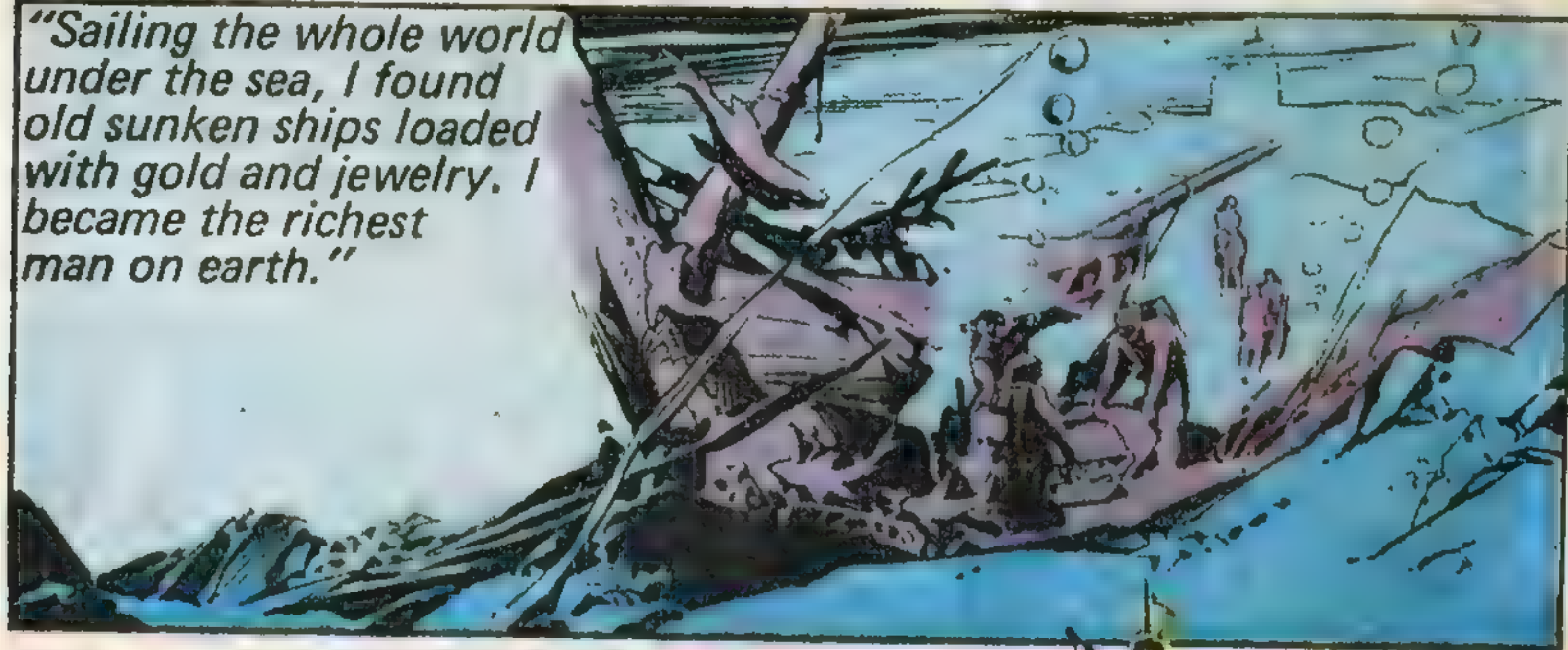


My wife and children were killed, by those bloody killers! I'll have revenge someday—revenge!

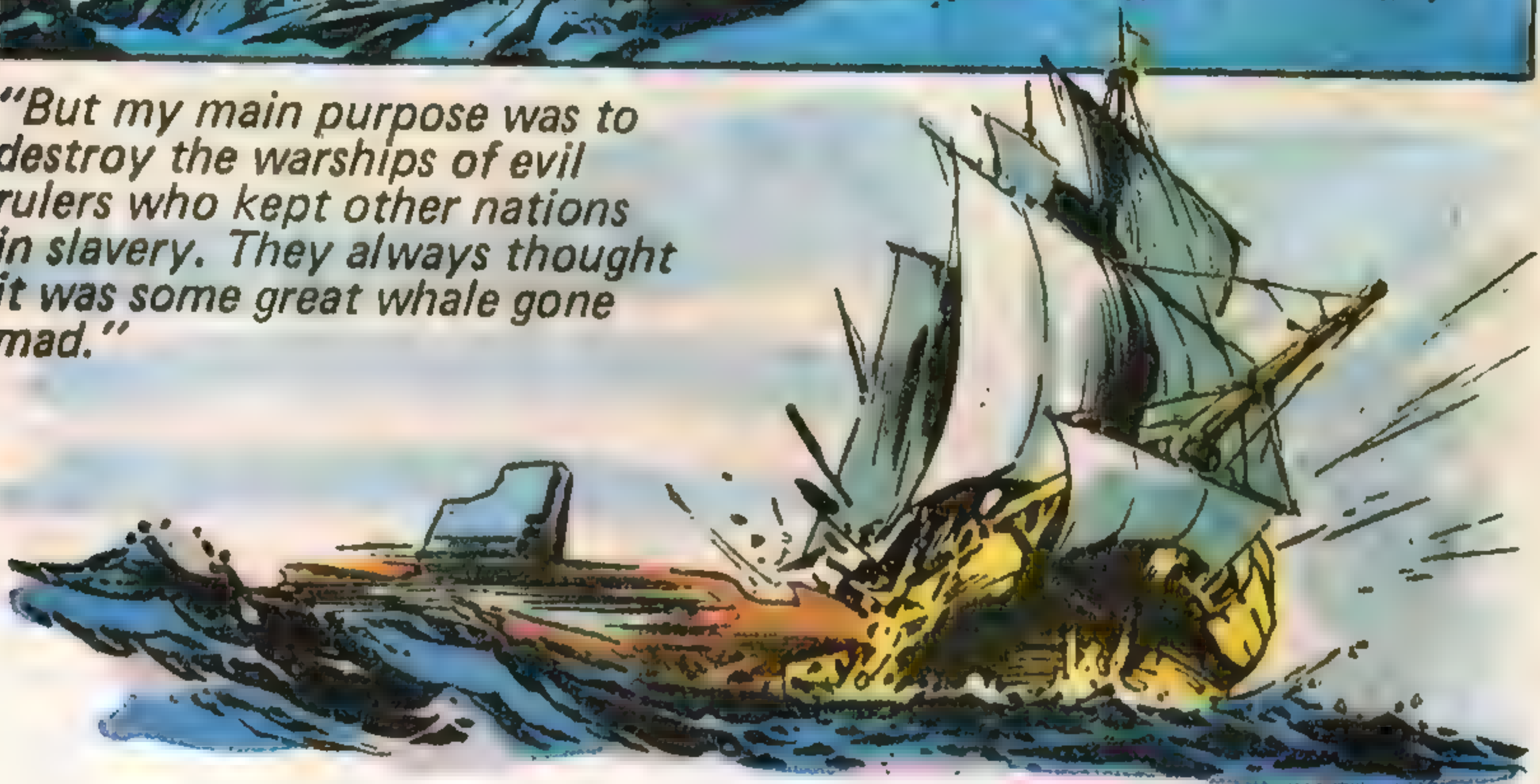
Filled with hatred, I used my riches to secretly build a steel submarine on a lonely desert island.



"Sailing the whole world under the sea, I found old sunken ships loaded with gold and jewelry. I became the richest man on earth."



"But my main purpose was to destroy the warships of evil rulers who kept other nations in slavery. They always thought it was some great whale gone mad."



The exciting story ended. . . .

But now I am old. My faithful crew died off, one by one. Alone, I found this underwater cave to hide my sub in. When you men came to the island, I decided to help you without being seen.



Then it was you who saved me from drowning. Saved Top from the dugong. Drove the apes out of Granite House. . . and all the rest of it.



Yes. I was able to climb up that wall and secretly listen to all your plans. I kept watch over you all the time to save you from danger.

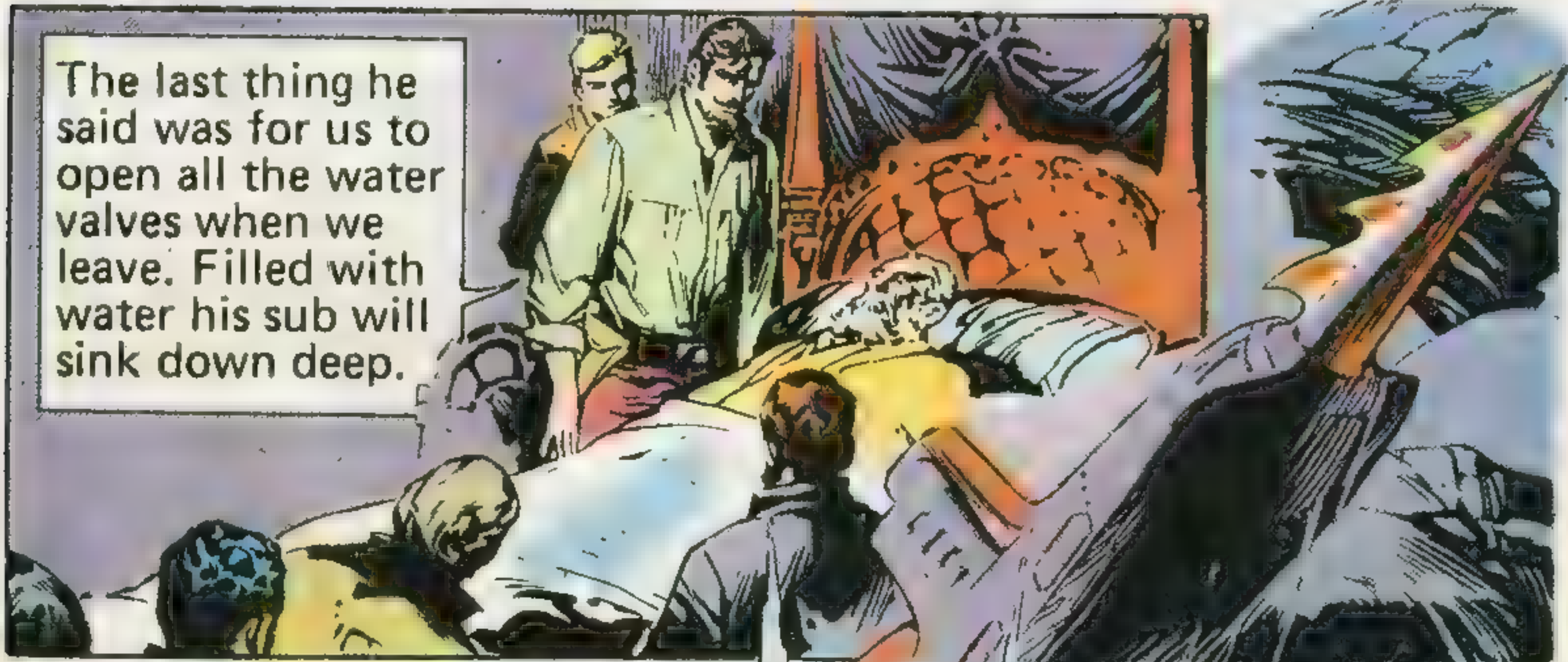
I shall die soon. But I want to leave you good men this chest.



A fortune in gold and jewels!

Next day, the great undersea adventurer died.

The last thing he said was for us to open all the water valves when we leave. Filled with water his sub will sink down deep.



Later, a sad happening. . . .



There it goes, sliding down to the ocean bottom to rest there forever. Farewell, Prince Dakkar—or Nemo!

As they went back to building their big ship. Harding became very worried. . . .



That volcano is alive, all right. It looks like a giant torch now. Can we finish our ship before it erupts?

It won't be an ordinary eruption. Nemo's tunnel is under the island, too. When melted lava meets water underground, high pressure steam will form and blow up the whole island!



We'll finish our ship in one week. Pray it's in time!

But the very next day, the eruption of the volcano happened, and Lincoln Island blew up!



The men barely had time to swim away....



That rock is our only hope to keep from drowning.

But our new ship is wrecked! How can we ever escape now and reach civilization?

But to their joy. . . .



A ship coming this way, praise heaven!

It looks like the "Duncan," the ship that marooned me on Tabor Island.

It said that Ayrton and five other men would be found on Lincoln Island.



A last good deed that Captain Nemo did for us before he died!

After being taken aboard. . . .



We decided you had suffered enough in exile, Ayrton. We came to take you back. We found Tabor Island deserted but we found a document.

And Nemo's treasure-chest will make us rich and allow us to fight evil, as Nemo would have wished.



There's all that's left of Lincoln Island. . . a few rocks.



We'll never forget it. It was our home for over three long years.

THE END



ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Born in Nantes, France in 1828, Jules Verne was the son of a lawyer. His father expected him to become a barrister, too, but Verne was addicted to sea travel and scientific study.

His interest in science led him to create rich science fiction. In fact, many of the creations of his fantasies described in his books were later actually invented. Submarines, for example, were used by Verne before their manufacture. And in the nineteenth century, Verne was talking about rockets around the moon, television, atomic bombs, polar travel, photography, automobiles, and travel to the center of the earth.

Many of his scientific discoveries are embodied in his books. Two of the best known are *20,000 Leagues Under the Sea* and *Around the World in Eighty Days*. He wrote also *The Castaways of the Flag*, *Five Weeks in a Balloon*, *Master of the World*, *From the Earth to the Moon*, and *Mysterious Island*.

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